



San José State
UNIVERSITY

Academic Senate Office

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SS-F98-2

At its meeting of December 21, the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the full Academic Senate during the time its members are unavailable in accordance with By-Law 3.3b, approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
ON THE CSU CORNERSTONES DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, San Jose State University Academic Senate has been asked to provide feedback regarding the draft Cornerstones Implementation Plan prepared by Executive Vice Chancellor Spence (October 16, 1998); and

WHEREAS, Principle 10 from the Cornerstones Report explicitly sets forth that CSU "campuses shall have significant autonomy in developing their own missions, identity, and programs, with institutional flexibility in meeting clearly defined system policy goals"; and

WHEREAS, San Jose State University has been engaged in a variety of initiatives aligned with the objectives of the CSU's Cornerstones Project, including the following:

- (a) Academic Priorities planning that has resulted in consolidation of programs and better alignment of certain programs within colleges;
- (b) Infrastructure Project to improve the communications system and use of network technologies;
- (c) Assessment Project currently in progress;
- (d) Revision of general education curriculum and formulation of learning outcomes;
- (e) Increased efforts at student recruitment and retention, including a program to enable students to complete their undergraduate degree in four years;
- (f) Increasing numbers of activities within departments and colleges to engage in distance learning, develop new joint programs with other colleges and universities, and to ensure the currency of programs; and

WHEREAS, The efforts put forth by the students, staff, faculty, and administration of San Jose State University to review and comment on the Cornerstones Report, and to develop and implement the above initiatives have been considerable; and

WHEREAS, The Statewide Academic Senate has (e.g. through the Baccalaureate Study) and will continue to provide substantive leadership to facilitate campus-based implementation of the principles contained in Cornerstones; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Reed in his remarks to the Board of Trustees at its November 1998 meeting affirmed that the strength of the CSU is in the diversity of its campuses; and

WHEREAS, Vice Chancellor Spence in seeking to spark systemwide discussion has also requested advice regarding the prioritization of principles; and

WHEREAS, The current implementation plan circulated for discussion is not adequately coordinated with the cornerstones principles and recommendations (see attached chart); and

WHEREAS, Direction (rather than directives) and support from the Chancellor's Office can facilitate campus-based implementation of the principles contained in the Cornerstones Report, as well as enhance progress on initiatives that require systemwide coordination (e.g. articulation); and

WHEREAS, The Chancellor's Office should be responsible for overseeing that the combined efforts of each campus meet the goals set forth in the Cornerstones Report; Therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That strategies for the implementation of the principles of the Cornerstones Report be designed primarily at the campus level and where systemwide coordination is needed, that the broadest possible consultation take place regarding the design and implementation of any centrally directed programs or initiatives (such as Principle 7 dealing with higher education finance); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the CSU give high priority to Cornerstones recommendation 4a to "commit to a systemwide faculty development and reinvestment plan, including steps to define and address the faculty salary gap" given the importance of faculty recruitment, retention, and development to the success of implementing the Cornerstones principles; and be it further

RESOLVED: That with respect to the prioritization of initiatives, the SJSU Academic Senate recommends that principle 10 (autonomy) guide all efforts and that attention be focused on principles 4 (commitment to faculty development and closing of the faculty salary gap), 5 (increased student outreach efforts), and 7 (new policy framework for higher education finance) (see priorities indicated in the attached chart); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Chancellor's Office support the endeavors of San Jose State University and other CSU campuses as they continue to address the principles of the Cornerstones Report in the context of the opportunities and challenges unique to their campus, and in this vein, request annual reports from the CSU campuses on their progress in pursuing their campus-formulated implementation plans; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Organization and Government Committee establish an appropriate group with responsibility to prepare a plan (with input from the various SJSU constituencies) for prioritizing and implementing the Cornerstones principles most crucial to serving the needs of our students and faculty, as well as our community of potential students; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That the SJSU Academic Senate acknowledge and thank Vice Chancellor Spence for giving us this first draft as a beginning point for our responses; and

RESOLVED: That this resolution be communicated directly to Chancellor Reed, Executive Vice Chancellor Spence, the statewide Academic Senate, and each CSU campus Academic Senate.