

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

SS-S12-3, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Endorsing the Development of University Learning Outcomes

Legislative History: At its meeting of May 7, 2012, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by the Executive Committee.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
ENDORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Whereas,

The *Mission, Outcomes, and Meaning (MOM) of Degrees Task Force* is charged with facilitating determination of the meaning of a San José State University degree and how this should be assessed; and,

Whereas,

The *MOM Task Force* drew from the following resources:

- SJSU Mission and Goals Statement
- SJSU's "Educated Person" dialogue
- Strategic Planning Documents: Vision 2017, Academic Plan
- The Lumina Degree Qualifications Profile
- The AAC&U Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) outcomes report (as adopted by the CSU for its GE outcomes)
- Current SJSU Program Learning Outcomes

and therefore be it,

Resolved,

That the Academic Senate support the process of developing University Learning Outcomes (ULOs) tailored to San José State and using established assessment tools, and further be it,

Resolved,

That the senate endorse the continuing work of the *MOM Task Force* in developing university learning outcome recommendations for consideration by the senate by the end of Fall 2012. The senate will be the body to approve university learning outcomes.

Rationale

This sense of the senate resolution is an attempt to meet two parallel needs. The first is to ensure that the *Mission, Outcomes, and Meaning (MOM) Task Force* of the *WASC Review Steering Committee* is pursuing a reasonable path towards recommending ULOs to the

senate. The second, on behalf of the institution at large, is to facilitate awareness of, and engagement in, this curricular process.

The *MOM Task Force* has understood its charge, in part, to address the “Meaning, Quality, and Rigor of the Degrees” as identified by WASC and the WASC Commission’s expectation that all institutions will articulate, as part of the institutional review process, the learning outcomes of the degree as a whole and demonstrate that processes assure degrees have meaning, quality and rigor.

The “*Areas of Learning*” framework for organizing the ULOs is congruent with the *Lumina Degree Qualifications Profile*, *The SJSU Mission and Goals Statement*, and the *Educated Person Dialogue*, with a particular emphasis on the *University Scholar Rubric*. Additional sources contributing to *MOM Task Force* discussions (and likely to the selection of specific ULOs within each *Area of Learning*) include the *SJSU Academic Plan*, *the Strategic Plan for SJSU (Vision 2017)*, CSU GE requirements (*EO 1067*), and individual program learning outcomes.

It is anticipated that the *WASC Review Steering Committee* (likely via the *MOM Task Force*) will facilitate the development, distribution, and evaluation of any proposed ULOs by the university community prior to their formal presentation to the Senate during the fall semester of 2012.

What follows is primarily intended as a quick summary of some of the elements the *MOM Task Force* considered in its deliberations. These notes are intended to be used as a primer or reference for individuals less familiar with SJSU assessment activities; they are not intended to be exhaustive.

1. The Lumina Degree Qualification Profile

Identifies six likely elements to organize system-level assessment of system (in this case university-level) outcomes.

- i. Specialized Knowledge*
- ii. Broad/Integrated Knowledge*
- iii. Applied Learning*
- iv. Intellectual Skills*
- v. Civic Learning*
- vi. Institution-Appropriate Specific “other” outcomes.*

2. The SJSU *Mission and Goals* statement reads: (from http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/mission/)

In collaboration with nearby industries and communities, SJSU faculty and staff are dedicated to achieving the university's mission as a responsive institution of the state of California: To enrich the lives of its students, to transmit knowledge to its students along with the necessary skills for applying it in the service of our society, and to expand the base of knowledge through research and scholarship.

Goals

For both undergraduate and graduate students, the university emphasizes the following goals:

- *In-depth knowledge of a major field of study.*
 - *Broad understanding of the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts.*
 - *Skills in communication and in critical inquiry.*
 - *Multi-cultural and global perspectives gained through intellectual and social exchange with people of diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds.*
 - *Active participation in professional, artistic, and ethnic communities.*
 - *Responsible citizenship and an understanding of ethical choices inherent in human development.*
3. The Educated Person Dialogue has identified an (SJSU) university scholar (from <http://www.sjsu.edu/cfd/docs/univ-scholar-rubric.pdf>):
- Has Learning and Social Interaction Skills
 - Has Knowledge for Lifelong Learning and Living
 - Uses Cognitive Processes
 - Takes Responsibility as an engaged person (student, learner, professional, and global citizen)
4. Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) Essential Learning Outcomes (from http://www.aacu.org/leap/documents/EssentialOutcomes_Chart.pdf)
- Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
 - Intellectual and Practical Skills
 - Personal and Social Responsibility
 - Integrative and Applied Learning
5. SJSU Strategic Plan: Vision 2017
- A Strong and Unique Sense of Place
 - Spartan Pride
 - Unbounded Learning
 - Helping and Caring
 - Agility through Technology
 - Twenty-First Century Spaces