

8 **Sense of the Senate**
9 **On Continued Maximum Flexibility and Support of SJSU Students**
10 **During the Prolonged COVID-19 Pandemic**
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12 **Whereas:** The COVID-19 pandemic continues its unprecedented disruption of
13 university operations; and

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15 **Whereas:** The SJSU campus and its community were also heavily impacted by
16 unprecedented wildfire activity across the Bay Area in the first weeks of
17 the Fall 2020 semester that resulted in evacuations for faculty, students,
18 and staff, canceled classes, and campus closure; and

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20 **Whereas:** The SJSU Academic Senate has repeatedly advocated for maximum
21 flexibility and understanding on the part of faculty while working with
22 students; and

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24 **Whereas:** Student senators are advocating for student voices to be heard regarding
25 decisions related to grading and student success during virtual learning;
26 and

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28 **Whereas:** Students continue to need accommodation for a variety of hardships
29 including, but not limited to, stress, anxiety, depression, other mental
30 health issues, unexpected disruptions in work schedules, financial
31 difficulties, shifts in housing and study environments, an increase of family
32 responsibilities, and the ability to access adequate or regular computer
33 equipment or internet service; and

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35 **Whereas:** Students should continue to be afforded the opportunity to request
36 assistance in reducing the potential negative impact that the COVID-19
37 pandemic and other emergency incidents may have on their academic
38 record; and

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40 **Whereas:** An overly rapid change to the grading policy without adequate time to
41 properly advise students regarding choosing Credit/No Credit could result
42 in a negative outcome, especially in light of data from Spring 2020 that
43 shows choosing Credit/No Credit had a negative impact for many students
44 despite having time to consult with advisors and faculty and may create
45 educational inequities in progress towards degree; therefore be it
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47 **Resolved:** That the SJSU Academic Senate ask the university to continue to support
48 students who experience great hardships that affect their academic
49 performance by educating faculty and encouraging them to consider the
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- assignment of an Incomplete (I) for students who were able to
- assignment of an Unauthorized Withdrawal (WU) grade instead of

51 complete most but not all of the coursework
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- assignment of an Unauthorized Withdrawal (WU) grade instead of

53 assigning a failing grade (F) for students who are unable to
54 complete most of the coursework; and therefore be it
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56 **Resolved:** That the SJSU Academic Senate ask the university to reach out to and
57 advise students who have been unsuccessful in their coursework,
58 especially those who have received grades of Unauthorized Withdrawal
59 (WU) due to these unprecedented circumstances, to consider formally
60 requesting a Withdrawal (W) from some or all of their courses (and to
61 make this request an easy, clearly communicated process to students);
62 and therefore be it
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64 **Resolved:** That the SJSU Academic Senate ask the university to review all
65 Withdrawal (W) applications so that students are given fair consideration
66 for circumstances which may be difficult to provide thorough
67 documentation for, and to have the Director of the Academic Advising and
68 Retention Services review all denials and appeals to ensure consistency
69 in approving applications and in granting exceptions; and therefore be it
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71 **Resolved:** That the SJSU Academic Senate ask the university to include a notation
72 on all students' transcripts highlighting the potential impact of the
73 pandemic on their grades for Fall 2020; and therefore be it
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75 **Resolved:** That the SJSU Academic Senate ask the university to continue to consider
76 means of supporting students to address the underlying issues that lead to
77 poor student success through outreach from CAPS or SJSU Cares,
78 informing and training faculty on various resources available to support
79 students, and outreach through Advancement to raise funds to support
80 students' non-academic needs.
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82 **Approved:** December 7, 2020

83 **Vote:** 14-0-0

84 **Present:** Chuang, French, Gomez Marcelino, Hill, Jackson (non-
85 voting), Khan, Lee, Leisenring (non-voting), Rao, Sen,
86 Sullivan-Green, Walker, Wilson, Wolcott, Yang, Yao

87 **Absent:** Delgadillo, Sorkhabi, Walters

88 **Financial impact:** Some resources may be needed to provide additional
89 support for support staff, advisors and faculty.

90 **Workload impact:** There would be additional workload from support staff and advisors
91 to serve students and train faculty.
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