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San José State University
Academic Senate
March 18, 2024
First Reading

AS 1866

Sense of the Senate Resolution
Support of Campus Culture of Collegial Curriculum Decision
in Response to CSU Chancellor’s Office and CSU Trustees
Impending Plans to Changes to General Education

Whereas: San José State University Senate has historically entrusted curriculum decisions to departments, college curriculum committees, the Senate’s [Curriculum and Research Committee \(C&R\)](#), and the SJSU [General Education Advisory Committee \(GEAC\)](#); and

Whereas: the SJSU Academic Senate has received regular reports about discussions and resolutions [AS-3615-AA](#), [AS-3639-AA](#), [AS-3666](#) of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) recommending not to change CSU General Education Breadth requirements and Title 5 that affects CSU GE Breadth requirements; and

Whereas: The SJSU Academic Senate received a report in fall 2023 from the Chair of C&R and the ASCSU (statewide) senator serving on the SJSU’s Senate Executive Committee about [AB928](#) and [Cal-GETC](#) that: (1) emphasized a focus on local practices; (2) attested to the value of general education to students; and (3) urged for more evidence about the impact of proposed changes through a survey of SJSU faculty and students; and

Whereas: The respondents of the San José State University Senate Survey regarding AB928 and Cal-GETC were split on changes proposed by the CSU Chancellor’s office on implementation of Cal-GETC, including the reduction of 5 GE units by removing Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development, and a reduction of one course in the Arts and Humanities and Behavioral Sciences requirements, and an addition of a laboratory unit associated with bio/physical sciences, and a singular pathway to transfers. Nevertheless, survey respondents overwhelmingly agreed on the importance of General

37 Education, and affirmed their support for proper consultation and the continuation of a
38 collegial culture of collective decision-making on curriculum at SJSU; and

39
40 **Whereas:** The SJSU Academic Senate leadership has been included in and made
41 aware of debates through local communication about probable actions regarding GE
42 changes and their potentially negative impact on some departments and colleges; and

43
44 **Whereas:** Such communications have resulted in concrete assurances from campus
45 administration to identify tangible ways to support affected departments and faculty; and

46
47 **Whereas:** Lack of collegial curriculum decision and meaningful consultation with
48 ASCSU will undoubtedly exacerbate issues of campus climate for faculty and students
49 in a time of multiple social crises (e.g., enrollment struggles, budgetary deficits, and
50 tuition increases, etc.); therefore, be it

51
52 **Resolved** that the Academic Senate of San José State University strongly affirms its
53 support of the ASCSU resolutions named herein; and be it further

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55 **Resolved** that the Academic Senate of San José State University calls for local
56 administrative support in addressing concerns about faculty roles in curriculum
57 decisions; and be it further

58
59 **Resolved** that the Academic Senate of San José State University calls for local
60 administrative support in resolving any negative consequences of GE changes on
61 faculty who teach GE courses and departments which need GE courses to maintain
62 enrollment and remain in good standing, should alignment be adopted; and be it further

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64 **Resolved** that the Academic Senate of San José State University believes that
65 insufficient careful study has been conducted to understand the implications of aligning
66 CSU GE Breadth with Cal-GETC and therefore calls for an academically rigorous data-
67 informed analysis be undertaken to understand the implications for student success
68 making changes in CSU GE Breadth at the lower division before any decision to change
69 CSU GE Breadth is made; and be if further.

70
71 **Resolved** that the Academic Senate of San José State University, in consultation and
72 conversation with relevant constituencies (e.g., the General Education Advisory
73 Committee, department chairs, chairs of curriculum committees) debate the following
74 1. The implications of aligning CSU General Education (GE) with California General
75 Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC).

76 2. How might programs and campuses use the 5 units released from CSU GE to
77 serve the educational interests of our students, should alignment be adopted;
78 and be it further
79

80 **Resolved** that the Academic Senate of San José State University unites with the other
81 CSU campuses in voicing grave concern over the process by which changes to GE
82 coming down from the Board of Trustees, and the potential detrimental effects to
83 campus collegiality and faculty authority on curriculum.
84

85
86 Workload Impact: None expected
87

88 Financial Impact: Potential financial support to impacted programs
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90
91 **Julia Curry**
92 **Stefan Frazier**
93 **Ravisha Mathur**
94 **Sabrina Pinnell**
95 **Simon Rodan**
96 **Mark Van Selst**
97 **Hiu Yung Wong**