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May 13, 2019

To: Stefan Frazier, Ph.D.
Senate Chair

From: Mary A. Papazian, Ph.D.
President



Subject: Amendment C to University Policy S14-5, Guidelines for
General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI) and the
Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)

Following the Senate's vote on February 11, 2019 that narrowly passed Amendment C to University Policy S14-5, Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI) and the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR), I spent some time reflecting on the best course of action to take before making a final decision on whether or not to approve the proposal. As I indicated at the time, I had concerns about inserting language into the proposal that implied SJSU's unwillingness to comply with CSU policy expectations. After careful consideration, I have decided not to approve the amendment.

As the President of San José State University, I am responsible for implementing all executive orders issued by the Chancellor's Office. I am not comfortable signing a proposal that contains language suggesting that SJSU is complying with a duly issued executive order only under duress or imposition.

I recognize that the members of the Academic Senate may wish to express their feelings on the issue at hand. They certainly are free to do so through a Sense of the Senate Resolution.

In order to implement Executive order 1100, I will issue a Presidential Directive to ensure SJSU's compliance. The directive will be effective until such time as the Academic Senate passes a policy that does not introduce the concerns I described above.