



San José State
UNIVERSITY

A campus of The California State University

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SS-F01-2

At its meeting of December 3, 2001, the Academic Senate passed the following Senate of the Senate Recommendation presented by Pam Stacks for the Executive Committee.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
ON BEHALF OF MORE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION
ON THE CSU ACADEMIC SENATE**

- Whereas, The Academic Senate of the CSU (ASCSU) has previously been apportioned on the basis of a compromise between the principle of equal representation for each campus, which recognizes the unique needs of small campuses, and the principle of proportional representation per faculty member, which recognizes the needs of large campuses and democracy; and
- Whereas, The ASCSU's last constitutional amendment in 1996 was enacted in response to severe budget pressures to decrease the size of the ASCSU and was agreed to by campuses as a temporary expedient; and
- Whereas, the addition of new campuses has resulted in a seemingly permanent shift away from proportional representation and the loss of some representation from all of the larger campuses, including the drop of SJSU from 4 to 3 senators; and
- Whereas, The ASCSU's own Constitutional Revision committee recommended (in March 2001) changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that would restore some of the lost proportionality to the ASCSU; and
- Whereas, The ASCSU is currently contemplating constitutional amendments that would further decrease proportionality by guaranteeing even the smallest campuses two votes while allowing the seven largest campuses only three votes, and none more than three; and
- Whereas, The contemplated amendments would do nothing to remedy the disproportion introduced in developments since 1996, and in fact will result in extreme disparities in representation in the ASCSU, with faculty:senator ratios ranging from 26:1 at the Maritime Academy to 456:1 at San Diego State and 365:1 at San Jose State; and

Whereas, There are many sound arguments in favor of proportional representation, including basic fairness and democracy, but also including the need for the ASCSU to take full advantage of the system's largest talent pools, the need for larger and more complex campuses to have the opportunity to represent their varied internal constituencies, and the need for the ASCSU to be accepted as a legitimate and democratic body representing all the faculty of the CSU; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Academic Senate of SJSU favors the recommendations of the statewide Senate's Constitutional Review Committee (Attachment To: AS-2524-01/EX) as the best available compromise between campus based and proportional representation; be it further

Resolved, That the Academic Senate of SJSU opposes the amendments currently before the ASCSU and will actively seek to defeat any proposed Constitutional amendments that fail to restore the ASCSU to the compromise embodied in the 1995 constitution.