



**San José State**  
UNIVERSITY

Academic Senate Office

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SS-F99-9

At its meeting of December 6, 1999, the SJSU Academic Senate unanimously passed the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by James Brent for the Executive Committee.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION  
RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNOR'S CALL  
FOR A COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

- Whereas, under the right conditions, community service offers great benefits to both the service providers and recipients, and
- Whereas, thousands of San Jose State University students (as well as faculty, staff and administrators) already engage in community service, but many SJSU students are themselves disadvantaged and do not have the time or other resources to devote themselves to community service at this point in their lives; and
- Whereas, imposition of a community service requirement would impose significant fiscal and other costs on SJSU (e.g. implementation of a community service requirement could cost up to \$1.5 million annually at SJSU; see attachment); and
- Whereas, if a community service requirement is imposed, it will drain time, money and other resources from existing curricular needs; and
- Whereas, it is unclear whether the State is prepared to provide the funds necessary to successfully implement a community service requirement; and
- Whereas, there are many serious issues regarding the educational value of a community service requirement which have yet to be resolved; and
- Whereas, although we recognize the tremendous importance of a community service ethic, we believe that ethic is better instilled through developing incentives and opportunities than in imposing a requirement; and
- Whereas, many faculty already incorporate community service into their courses, and efforts are already underway at SJSU to assist even more faculty in this effort (e.g. SJSU is in the process of implementing a community service learning plan); be it therefore
- Resolved, the SJSU Academic Senate opposes making community service a requirement for graduation; be it further
- Resolved, that the SJSU Academic Senate urge the Governor to publicly recognize and highlight the fact that many CSU students are already engaged in community service and that the CSU Academic Senate do the same.