



San José State
UNIVERSITY

A campus of The California State University

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SS-S02-5

At its meeting of May 6, 2002 the SJSU Academic Senate passed the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Maribel Martinez for the Executive Committee.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
ENDORING MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORKERS RIGHTS CONSORTIUM**

- Whereas, the use of child and sweatshop labor is an affront to human dignity and should be condemned, and
- Whereas, the Associated Students Board of Directors has passed a resolution endorsing membership in the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC), an organization dedicated to exposing and ending exploitative labor practices in the collegiate apparel industry, and
- Whereas, SJSU has already acknowledged the problem of sweatshop labor and has taken steps to combat it via membership in the Fair Labor Association (FLA), another organization fighting against exploitative labor practices in the apparel industry, and
- Whereas, the Workers Rights Consortium and the Fair Labor Association are both dedicated toward the same ends of economic and social justice but differ on the best means of achieving these ends, with the FLA adopting a model of cooperation with industry, and the WRC adopting a more confrontational model, and
- Whereas, there appears to be no systematic evidence regarding which organization is more effective in combating sweatshop labor, and the tactics of cooperation and confrontation complement each other; and
- Whereas, universities are not prohibited from joining both organizations simultaneously; and
- Whereas, the cost of membership in the Workers Rights Consortium is small (\$1000 annually), and Spartan Shops profits from the sale of apparel; be it therefore
- Resolved, that the SJSU Academic Senate commends the university for recognizing the importance of combating sweatshop labor as evidenced by its decision to join the Fair Labor Association; be it further

Resolved, the SJSU Academic Senate endorses the concept of SJSU joining the Workers Rights Consortium and continuing its membership in the Fair Labor Association; be it further

Resolved, the SJSU Academic Senate recommends that the membership dues for both the Fair Labor Association and the Workers Rights Consortium be paid by Spartan Shops, Inc.; be it finally

Resolved, that the Executive Committee should review the benefits of membership in the FLA and WRC again in 2003 when membership comes up for renewal.