

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

**SS-S11-4, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Condemnation of the
Suspension of the Faculty Senate at Idaho State University**

Legislative History: At its meeting of March 14, 2011, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Senator Peter for the Executive Committee.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
CONDEMNATION OF THE SUSPENSION OF THE FACULTY SENATE AT IDAHO
STATE UNIVERSITY**

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of San Jose State University, as a representative body authorized by the California Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA), express solidarity with and support for the faculty of Idaho State University; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the SJSU Academic Senate, in response to the unilateral suspension of the Faculty Senate at Idaho State University by the Idaho State Board of Education, condemn this act as a retaliation against the Faculty Senate at Idaho State University because it called for a faculty vote of no-confidence in its president and refused to endorse a reorganization plan promulgated by the Board; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the SJSU Academic Senate recognize and support the right of the faculty of Idaho State University to challenge administrative procedures and mandates when it believes that they compromise the best interests of the institution's academic mission and the institution's responsibility to its students; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the SJSU Academic Senate distribute this resolution to the Idaho State Board of Education; the Idaho State Legislature; and the Faculty Senate at Idaho State University.

RATIONALE: On February 17, 2011, the Idaho State Board of Education suspended the Faculty Senate at Idaho State University and replaced it with an interim faculty advisory structure. A week earlier, the Faculty Senate had conducted a vote of no confidence in president Arthur C. Vailas. The no-confidence vote was a culmination of on-going disagreements between the Faculty Senate and the president over the restructuring of the university, including faculty representation in shared governance. Such a retaliatory act is deplorable, since it violates both the principle of shared

governance and of academic freedom. Furthermore, it creates fear among the faculty and runs contrary to the educational mission of the university, which states "to develop citizens who will learn from the past, think critically about the present, and provide leadership to enrich the future in a diverse, global society." Faculty governance is essential to the very nature of an institution of higher learning. Especially in times of budgetary and political crises, the voice of faculty is absolutely critical in maintaining and forwarding the mission and goals of higher education. The full voice of the faculty cannot be represented by a governance model imposed by the administration, as suggested by the Idaho State Board of Education. Credible representation can only be achieved by a representative body elected by the entire faculty, a body that essentially reports only to the faculty and one which can act without fear of retaliatory repercussions.