

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

**SS-S12-5, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Honoring and Thanking
Dr. Joan Merdinger for her Service to the Senate and the University**

Legislative History: At its meeting of May 14, 2012, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by the Executive Committee.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
HONORING AND THANKING DR. JOAN MERDINGER FOR HER
SERVICE TO THE SENATE AND THE UNIVERSITY**

Whereas, Dr. Joan Merdinger has a distinguished professional career that spans from her work as a teaching fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, a Caseworker for the Social Service Department at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and numerous research publications in the area of foster care, children of color in the welfare system, death and dying, and AIDS education; and

Whereas, Dr. Merdinger began her career at San José State University in 1986, first as a Visiting Associate Professor in the School of Social Work, serving as the MSW Program Director and MSW Field Education Director; and

Whereas, Dr. Merdinger served as the Associate Dean of Social Work, chairing the School's self-study review for national accreditation; and

Whereas, Dr. Merdinger has contributed to shared governance at San Jose State University through service to the Academic Senate through much of her career serving as senator (2005-2012), member of Professional Standards Committee, member of Faculty Diversity/Affirmative Action Committee; and

Whereas, Dr. Merdinger has served as Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs from 2001-2004, and as Interim AVP for Faculty Affairs from 2004-2005, and AVP for Faculty Affairs from 2005-2012; and

Whereas, Dr. Merdinger has provided thoughtful advice, consultation, and interpretation of the complex Retention, Tenure, and Promotion policy (S 98-8) and the CFA Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

Whereas, Dr. Merdinger’s leadership supported the Inclusive Excellence Master Plan through developing training guidelines for diverse faculty hires, supporting outreach efforts to increase diversity in faculty hiring; and

Whereas, Dr. Merdinger has shown a commitment to faculty development and engagement through her leadership in the ACE/Sloan Faculty Career Flexibility Award that implemented groundbreaking policies and practices supporting career flexibility for tenured and tenure-track faculty; these include the development of the Balancing Work Life for Faculty Handbook, Post-tenure Professional Renewal Retreat, the Pre-Retirement Base and Faculty Early Retirement Program Calculator, the SJSU Tenure and Tenure-Track Faculty Work-Life Survey, and the Probationary Faculty Retention Survey Report; and therefore be it

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of San Jose State University congratulates, thanks and commends Dr. Joan Merdinger for her many years of service to the University and to the Academic Senate; and

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of San Jose State University wishes her a happy and healthy retirement, taking care of herself as she has taken care of others.

Approved: Executive Committee: Von Till, Heiden, Qayoumi, Junn, Bibb, Nance, Bussani, Kaufman, Sabalius, Kolodziejak, McClory, Bros-Seemann, Gleixner, Kimbarow, Ng
Professional Standards Committee: Semerjian, Reade, Reis, Backer, Kauppila, Brown, d’Alarcao, Minks, Ng

Vote: Executive Committee: 15-0-0
Professional Standards Committee: 9-0-0

Financial Impact: None

Workload Impact: None