

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

**SS-S13-2, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Common Writing Handbook for SJSU**

**Legislative History:** At its meeting of May 6, 2013, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Senator Du for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION  
COMMON WRITING HANDBOOK FOR SJSU**

- Whereas The Academic Senate California State University (ASCSU) AS-2813-07 supports the spirit of the Report of the CSU Textbook Affordability Taskforce, including the Development of a CSU Lookup tool to identify free or low-cost, high-quality alternatives to expensive textbooks; and
- Whereas For several years, San José State University has been engaged in the Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) Campaign, with the University Library, the Center for Faculty Development and eCampus, and has engaged in the Textbook Alternatives Project (TAP); and
- Whereas Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) ideally carries the principles and practices of good writing from the lower division writing intensive courses (Developmental Writing; Area A2, Written Communication I; and Area A3, Critical Thinking & Writing) to all other GE and writing intensive major courses; and
- Whereas A writing handbook used in common by all SJSU students would facilitate best practices in writing throughout their academic careers, and beyond while utilizing one of the suggested strategies suggested by ALS and the CSU; and
- Whereas Some SJSU students are required to purchase many different handbooks for various writing courses during their time at SJSU; and
- Whereas The Writing Requirements Committee (WRC), within the scope of its responsibilities defined in University Policy S95-5, is the appropriate committee to consider and propose a Common Writing Handbook for SJSU; and

- Whereas The WRC envisions the Common Writing Handbook as a digital publication with supplemental information unique to SJSU, departmental requirements, e.g., campus writing resources and disciplinary material; and
- Whereas On November 2, 2012, the WRC sponsored a well-attended one-half day Handbook Project event with presentations by three handbook publishers and a selection meeting following the presentations; and
- Whereas The WRC and BOGS unanimously endorse the adoption of a Common Writing Handbook; therefore be it
- Resolved That the Senate endorse the concept of a Common Writing Handbook and encourage the WRC to widely seek input on its content from interested stakeholders, such as departments, colleges and majors as well as writing and testing support services across the campus; and frequently re-evaluate it as to content, format, and cost to the students.

*Approved: 4/22/2013*

*Vote: 13-0-0*

*Present: Aggarwal, Baker, Culatta, Du, Goyal, Hagie, Holsey, Jeffrey, King, Kress, Postovoit, Walters, Wilson*

*Absent: Frazier, Kelley, Sofish, Vanniarajan, Worsnup*

*Non-voting Member: Branz*

*Financial Impact: None*

*Workload Impact: None*