

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
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SS-S20-2, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Option to Halt GE Assessment and/or Program Assessment for Spring 2020

Legislative History:

At its meeting of March 23, 2020, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Senators Sasikumar and Frazier from the floor of the Senate.

Resolved, That the SJSU Academic Senate support a cessation of activities for assessment—of GE courses and, if applicable, of degree programs—for any individual department or program, when that department or program’s curriculum committee decides to do so, for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester. (A department or program may also choose not to halt assessment.)

Resolved, That the Senate acknowledge that beginning in fall 2020, assessment activities should resume as normal, excluding data from spring 2020 if applicable.

Rationale: due to the unprecedented disruption of normal instruction in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, and because of the move online of all university instruction, assessment of these courses could never be comparable to assessment in other semesters. Modality of instruction is a central consideration under any circumstances. Data gathered for spring 2020 would be outliers and not useful in long-term assessment reporting. Even for courses that are normally online, any comparison to their sibling in-person courses would be completely different and not equivalent to normal semesters.

Instructors use specific items of evaluation, such as exams or in-class assignments, to measure student attainment of learning outcomes. Some of these evaluation items will need to be replaced, as we switch to online-only instruction. It is difficult to find new evaluation items that are also able to measure learning outcomes.

Furthermore, the main focus for all teaching faculty during the remainder of spring 2020 is, and should be, engagement / delivery of actual instruction to students. A cessation of assessment activities would offer partial relief to an already stressful semester.

For these reasons, department or program curriculum committees should have the option to halt assessment activities for this semester. The recommendation for future assessment reports is to include the clause “Assessment not done due to Covid-19 circumstances” for relevant courses.