

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
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SS-S21-5, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Thanking Senator Kenneth Peter for his Long Service to the Senate and the University and Wishing Him All the Very Best in Retirement

Legislative History:

On May 10, 2021 the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Senator Frazier from the floor of the Senate.

**Sense of the Senate Resolution
Thanking Senator Kenneth Peter for his Long Service to the Senate and the University and Wishing Him All the Very Best in Retirement**

- Whereas, Dr. Kenneth Peter has honorably and loyally served on the Academic Senate of SJSU since 1992 (on and off, though mostly on; and he was the first person to chair the Senate for two terms) but has now decided to enter the Faculty Early Retirement Program; and
- Whereas, Senator Peter, as the Senate’s *de facto* parliamentarian, knows all too well that “Whereas” clauses have no actual force in policy. Nonetheless, “Whereas” clauses are an excellent way to highlight a long list of achievements; and
- Whereas, Senator Peter served on and ably informed the Senate Special Committee on the Joint Library Project, which ultimately released a document that resulted in the library policy ([F98-5](#)) designed to “highlight and protect the academic mission of the library” and was the guide to the creation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library with appropriate safeguards for all constituents; and
- Whereas, Senator Peter has brought his considerable abilities working with his colleagues within the Senate to solve a variety of complex issues, including service on the Special Drafting Committee, which crafted [SS-F99-6](#) “Out of Crisis — Reforming Governance of the California State University”; co-chairing the AIM Task Force, which generated [SS-S02-6](#) “Alleviating Faculty Workload at SJSU”; and authoring [SS-S17-1](#) “Requesting Changes in the Systemwide Proposed Intellectual Property Policy” and [SS-S20-7](#) “Improving Implementation of San José State University’s Retention, Tenure, and Promotion Policies”; and
- Whereas, Senator Peter’s focus on the role and importance of universities, his thoughtful and articulate analyses of policies, politics, and parliamentary dilemmas, his

careful attention to the perspectives and opinions of students and colleagues, his deeply informed sense of history, and his exemplary civility and kindness have made him a model for all SJSU senators and for our entire academic community; and

- Whereas, Senator Peter, serving as chair of the Professional Standards Committee over many years, has been a foundational and continuing source of guidance in the realm of Retention, Tenure, and Promotion policy; and
- Whereas, Senator Peter has brought a high level of integrity, honesty, and patience to his service throughout his long and distinguished career; and has always sought to speak truth to power through open and eminently respectful dialogue; and
- Whereas, Senator Peter has always encouraged faculty and students to get involved in university governance and leadership activities and has set a high standard for such service, acting as a role model of what a dedicated and engaged university citizen does (while always attending meetings in full sartorial splendor); and
- Whereas, Senator Peter has used his extensive experience to mentor, advise, and support other senators and Senate chairs over the years (with a knowledge of Robert's Rules that saved many a chair from serious parliamentary faux pas); and
- Whereas, Senator Peter is a rugged back-country backpacker with a remarkable ability to capture nature's wonders through his camera lens; and
- Whereas, Senator Peter has been commended by the Academic Senate once before, in [SS-S99-6](#) (twenty-two years ago!), which noted his "sterling performance" and expressed the hope that he would "return to the Senate at an appropriate time," which he graciously did after an absence of merely two academic years; and
- Whereas, For all the above-mentioned reasons and many more, the Senate would be highly remiss not to issue another honorary resolution for Senator Peter; so be it
- Resolved, That the Academic Senate of San José State University wishes Senator Peter all the very best in his well-deserved retirement; and be it further
- Resolved, That the Academic Senate of San José State University commend, honor, and thank Senator Kenneth Peter for his many years of inspiration, leadership, encouragement, support, and guidance to senators and people all around SJSU.