

**San José State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192**

**SS-S25-3, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Honoring Dr. Peter
Buzanski (1929-2024)**

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski escaped from the European holocaust in Austria as a small child before finding his way to America, where he became an American citizen on July 4, 1945; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski earned three degrees in History from the University of California, Berkeley, culminating with a Ph.D, before becoming a faculty member at San José State College in 1960; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski - along with his good friend Ted Norton, a coterie of other young faculty, and the popular President Robert Clark - mounted a successful campaign to upgrade the [Faculty Assembly and later Academic Council](#) into a vastly more influential Academic Senate which crafted the policies that still govern SJSU; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski was an authoritative consultant in the writing of the [History of the Senate](#) at SJSU authored by Ted Norton; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski, in his [biography, on ScholarWorks](#) notes, “Faculty governance, through the mechanism of the Academic Senate, has always been of great importance to me.”; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski served the San José State University Academic Senate more or less continuously, in various capacities, for 60 years, becoming (by far) our longest serving Senator; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski served as Chair of the Academic Senate in 1984-1985; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski continued his outstanding service after retirement as an honorary senator and subsequently as the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association’s representative to the Academic Senate; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski throughout his tenure as a member of the Academic Senate served as an exemplar of effective engagement in shared governance; and

Whereas: In debate, Dr. Peter Buzanski as a truly gifted communicator, was eloquent in concisely identifying the heart of an issue; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski took pride in correcting the grammar of Senate documents, other Senators, and a few Presidents, pointing out that since English was his own third language that he actually had to learn grammar - as irrational as English grammar might be; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski served as a mentor for incoming senate chairs and was always willing to share his wisdom, wit, and knowledge of SJSU history, decision-making, and campus process; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski was always welcoming to all new Senators and engaged with all members and visitors; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski always had a positive and can do attitude; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski was a role model with regard to respectful debate on all issues ranging from simple to complex to intensely charged; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski was also a role model for collegiality and a master of decent, civil debate; and

Whereas: Dr. Peter Buzanski passed away in 2024, entrusting us with SJSU's powerful legacy of shared governance; and

Resolved: that the SJSU Academic Senate remember Dr. Peter Buzanski with great fondness, esteem, respect, and gratitude; be it further

Resolved: that every Senator should honor Dr. Peter Buzanski by emulating his collegiality, dedication, humor, and empathy; be it further

Resolved: that the SJSU Academic Senate shall designate a chair in the chamber to remain vacant in his honor, with Senator Dr. Peter Buzanski's placard in front, for the 2025-26 academic year.