

SS-S97-6

At its meeting of April 21, 1997, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense-of-the-Senate Resolution presented by Senator Canziani for the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Priorities.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
RESPONDING TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED IN THE
"REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PRIORITIES STEERING COMMITTEE" APRIL 16, 1997**

- Whereas, Opinions have been solicited freely from all senators in two iterations of a Delphi survey; and
- Whereas, Respondents are generally in positive accord about the integrity of the Steering Committee's process; and
- Whereas, There is some disposition to believe that the Steering Committee (SC) may have placed too much emphasis on numerical criteria and, at the same time, relied too heavily on the accuracy of the data with which they were working; and
- Whereas, There is some disposition among respondents to believe that numerical formulas (e.g. FTES) were not uniformly applied in the analysis of all programs; and
- Whereas, Respondents are strongly in favor of enhancing diversity throughout the University, while not supportive of achieving this solely within particular departments of Ethnic Studies; and
- Whereas, There is strong concern that practices such as using General Education enrollments to sustain programs have been institutionalized to the detriment of sound curricular planning; and
- Whereas, Some respondents believed that a more creative analysis of resource use might have formulated future allocation strategies independent of current department and college structures; and
- Whereas, Respondents viewed the scope of the report as being largely limited to analysis of degree programs and excluding appropriate attention to other divisions of the University; and
- Whereas, Respondents are strongly in favor of more general enhancements, such as encouraging technical assistance to faculty, augmented library resources and improved sabbatical opportunities, particularly if their funding can be achieved painlessly; and
- Whereas, The SC's report appears to have drawn Delphi respondents into active engagement with the process of examining program resource allocations; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved: That the members of the Steering Committee be thanked for their time and energy in the preparation of their report, and that the recommendations contained in "The Report of the Academic Priorities Steering Committee" be used as a basis for continuing the faculty's examination of the University's structure and use of resources; and be it further
- Resolved: That the Senate engage in a dialogue with all participants in this first attempt at strategic analysis of SJSU to uncover and establish shared values and perspectives in order to further the University's desire to move forward; and be it further

- Resolved: The Academic Senate, except as otherwise indicated in this resolution, endorses the general sentiments (though not necessarily all the particulars) contained within the Final Report of the Academic Priorities Steering Committee; and be it further
- Resolved: That any continuation of the process of examining the University's structure and use of resources take into account the specific comments adduced in the two Delphi rounds; the collected correspondence from the college and department committees involved in this task; the correspondence and testimony taken by the Academic priorities Steering Committee and by the Office of the Provost; and by the sentiments contained in this resolution; and be it further
- Resolved: That the Academic Senate agrees with the Steering Committee (Final Report, p. 15) that any program suggested for discontinuance should receive the full and complete Program Termination review mandated under University Policy S79-12. In addition, the Academic Senate advises itself and the administrators of this University to proceed with great caution in any actions that would impose programmatic reductions.