Resolution on Constitution

Resolution Number: RF05-245
September, 2005

WHEREAS Section 111 (b) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 mandates that each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution; and

WHEREAS The Department of Education includes in its definition of educational institution institutions of higher education? and all educational institutions [subject to the authority of the Department] receiving federal funding; and
WHEREAS San Francisco State University has responded to the federal mandate to observe Constitution Day by declaring Monday, September 19 as the day when the campus will offer a program dedicated to discussion of the Constitution of the United States of America, it being the case that September 17, 2005 is a Saturday; but

WHEREAS The faculty of San Francisco State University, represented by the Academic Senate of SFSU, has on many occasions stated its concerns about any potential for intrusion in the curricula of the University; and

WHEREAS The language of Section 111 (b) embodies such a potential and has become a matter of serious concern to higher education professionals on many campuses; therefore be it

RESOLVED That by virtue of this document the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University (SFSU) acknowledge the spirit and intent of Constitution Day; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of SFSU strongly restate its belief that any external pressure on the university from any source whatsoever, e.g., to espouse particular topical matter, or to address any topic from a particular perspective, holds the potential for endangering and eroding the faculty responsibility for and authority over academic programs and curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of SFSU reaffirm its opposition to any attempt of bodies other than the faculty to shape or otherwise affect the curricula or academic programs in any institution of higher learning in the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of SFSU forward copies of this resolution to the Academic Senate of the CSU and to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).