Resolution Number: RS02-195
January, 2002
ACADEMIC
SENATE

Resolution
on a Moratorium on the Death Penalty

#RS02-195

Whereas, the spirit of the university
is embodied in open and rational discourse, humane forms of
problem-solution,

Whereas, the humility inevitably generated by the quest for knowledge, and
dedication
to justice; and

Whereas, anger and fear ensuing from crimes very often incomprehensible to
the average
individual
are inimical and even contrary to the values and spirit of the academy;

Whereas, knowledge resulting from new technologies makes it apparent that the
death
penalty has
resulted from evidence persuasive in the moment
but later (and sometimes irremediably)
shown to be inconclusive; and

It has been demonstrated repeatedly that the death penalty is unfairly applied to individuals on the basis of their racial and/or ethnic background, ignorance and poverty, major mental retardation, and/or severe emotional deprivation or damage, and substandard legal representation; and

The report of a highly-respected commission comprised of both supporters and opponents of the death penalty calls for massive reforms in the way states and the federal government now conceptualize and use the death penalty; and

For many of these reasons the states of Illinois and Maryland recently enacted a moratorium
Resolved

That

the SFSU Academic Senate endorse actions to place a moratorium on the death penalty in the state of California, and further be it

That

the SFSU Academic Senate urge its elected representatives to support pending legislation calling for a moratorium on executions; and further be it

That

the SFSU Academic Senate reaffirm its commitment to the values of reason, open discourse, and justice that give vitality to the more mundane activities of the university; and further be it
Resolved that the SFSU Academic Senate send copies of this resolution to Governor Gray Davis, Speaker of the California Assembly Robert M. Hertzberg, California Senate Chair Pro Tem John Burton, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, Californians for a Moratorium on Executions, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, and California State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed.

*** APPROVED WITHOUT DISSENT MAY 14, 2002 ***