Resolution Number: RS02-195
January, 2002

ACADEMIC

SENATE

Resolution

on a Moratorium on the Death Penalty

#RS02-195

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

The

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;
and

The

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

Resolved

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

Resolved

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. Hertsberg,
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 ***