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 irretrievably)
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
decision 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
on
the death; penalty; therefore be it

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 ***