Resolution Number: RS02-196
January, 2002

Academic Senate

Resolution on Welfare Reform Reauthorization

Whereas The United States Congress must reauthorize the 1996 Welfare Reform legislation that sought to "end welfare as we know it" and that mandated a "work first" policy limiting the educational options for people receiving public assistance; and

Whereas The 1996 legislation limited the amount of time people could receive training for employment before losing public assistance; and

Whereas The 1996 legislation mandated that people receiving public assistance start paid work after a minimal time, and increase their working hours to 32 hours a week over an 18 month period; and

Whereas Current research demonstrates that the "work first" policy has reduced the numbers of people receiving public assistance since 1996 without decreasing the poverty rates among those same people; and
Whereas Research consistently indicates that the most significant gains in income are made by those who persist to a college degree; and

Whereas The availability of affordable child care is a critical determining factor in persistence to completion of education for people with children; and

Whereas Current legislative proposals before Congress would make education even more difficult to obtain for people receiving public assistance, increase the work mandate from 32 hours to 40 hours a week, and make significantly fewer child care options available for people receiving public assistance; therefore be it

Resolved
That the Academic Senate at San Francisco State University urge Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to take the lead in proposing a Senate bill that will provide a just and fair reform of current welfare provisions by including the following:

- "stop the clock" -- extend the federal time limits for people seeking education and training;
- count education and homework time as approved work time;
- decrease
the number of work hours required for the receipt of public assistance, and increase the community service options for that work;
· include
the four-year college option as an authorized choice available to people receiving public assistance;
· restate
end child and family poverty.”

***APPROVED

UNANIMOUSLY WITH APPLAUSE
May 14, 2002***