Resolution Honoring and Commending
Mary Soliday, Director of Writing Across
the Curriculum and in the Disciplines

WHEREAS: Dr. Mary Soliday came to San Francisco State University from City
College of New York in 2008 to direct SF State’s new Writing Across the
Curriculum/Writing In the Disciplines (WAC/WID) program; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Soliday has served as Director of SF State’s WAC/WID program for
seven years; and

WHEREAS: Before even arriving on campus, Dr. Soliday worked to ensure that the
process of establishing writing across the curriculum would have wide
university input by coming to facilitate a colloquium to establish criteria
for Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) courses; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Soliday has worked closely with individual faculty, department chairs,
Associate Deans, and other administrators in every college, and also the
Committee on Written English Proficiency (CWEP), to approve over 100
courses for GWAR credit, ensuring that students in every major on
campus can meet their writing requirement through a writing course in
their discipline or a closely related discipline; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Soliday has carefully consulted with faculty about the GWAR criteria
and course design, and has also created and facilitated multiple
professional development sessions per year since her arrival, helping
faculty share and develop their strategies and approaches to teaching
writing in their disciplines and importantly shaping writing policy at the
university; and

WHEREAS: In a time of scarce resources, Dr. Soliday has worked closely with
departments, tutoring centers, and librarians on campus to build an
academic community dedicated to student success, ensuring that there is
support for students facing new intellectual challenges as they deepen their
learning of content through writing; and

WHEREAS: SF State’s WAC program garnered a commendation from the WASC
accreditation team, who called the program a “notable success” and
declared that “the work on improving student writing” in the program
“could serve as a model for other efforts to expand high impact student
practices and to expand faculty use of pedagogical strategies to improve
student success, especially for at-risk and underrepresented minority
students”; and
WHEREAS: Dr. Soliday and her colleagues actively survey students to learn how they perceive their experience in GWAR classes, and share the results with CWEP and other faculty and administrators; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Soliday followed her award-winning book, *The Politics of Remediation*, with *Everyday Genres: Writing Assignments Across the Disciplines*, a book that draws on faculty and student experience with SF State’s WAC program and that represents an exemplary instance of the scholarship of teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS: The Writing Across the Curriculum Conference Dr. Soliday organized last January at SF State had an enormous turnout and was hugely successful; and

WHEREAS: The success of SF State’s WAC program demonstrates the fruits of shared governance, as Dr. Soliday worked closely with university administration, faculty, and the Academic Senate to create the CSU’s most successful upper-division writing program; be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate commends Dr. Mary Soliday for her outstanding leadership, her inspiring pedagogy, her exemplary patience, and her firm commitment to allowing departments to participate fully in creating SF State’s exceptional Writing Across the Curriculum and in the Disciplines Program; and let it further be

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of SF State congratulates Dr. Soliday on her successful tenure as Director of SF State’s WAC/WID program, on her tireless efforts on behalf of students, and on the extraordinarily strong program she has created for the university; and let it further be

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate wishes Dr. Soliday well as she returns to her Professorship in the English Department to teach in the undergraduate writing program and the MA in Composition, and looks forward to her continued contributions to San Francisco State University.