Resolution on Best Practices for Lecturer Faculty

Whereas: San Francisco State University has an educational mission focusing on fairness and inclusion, and a commitment to academic freedom and equity for all faculty, regardless of faculty rank;

Whereas: San Francisco State University recognizes the ways in which strong teaching is a result of active professional development;

Whereas: The percentage of lecturer faculty members at San Francisco State University has increased steadily to a current level of 54% of total faculty;

Whereas: Lecturers provide a vital role across the university in departmental ability to provide courses that meet or expand their curricular goals;

Whereas: Lecturer faculty provide expertise in critical courses; their flexibility enables San Francisco State University to expand class schedules to serve more students; their teaching helps our students to develop “real world” perspectives; and they do it all under very challenging circumstances; therefore, be it

Resolved: That lecturers are professional educators who should be granted the same academic freedom over their teaching as tenure-line faculty. The right to exercise judgment over course material, testing, and grading is central to the educator’s role and should be inviolate, subject to the limitations of the law, the CBA, and university policy.

Resolved: That as San Francisco State University’s strategic planning involves a commitment to support all faculty in maintaining excellence in teaching, research and professional practice, lecturers shall be given the opportunity to propose new courses that serve both their departments and their professional development, and as a courtesy, chairs should consult with each lecturer about the type of courses they are qualified to teach and when appropriate honor their requests, just as such consultation is made with tenure line faculty.

Resolved: That lecturers should have access to Departmental and College resources, including but not limited to: inclusion on departmental websites, mailboxes, office space, telephone extension and voicemail, functional and current computing resources, access to printing and other duplication amenities, resources to support professional development, business cards.

Resolved: That lecturers should be informed of and have access to orientation programs to facilitate lecturers’ integration into the University, College, and Departments. Orientation should provide information about department, college, and university policies and practices, and delineate expectations of teaching. It should also include information about resources to support teaching and opportunities to contribute to the academic culture of the department, college, and university.