Resolution Number: RS15-330
May, 2015

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.