WHEREAS The Academic Senate of San Francisco State University affirms the CSU Board of Trustee’s goal to integrate fully-qualified first year students who need additional support in English and Mathematics into mainstream academic life quickly, humanely and with a high degree of probability that they will graduate in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS Substantial evidence from both San Francisco State University and other CSU campuses indicates that innovative first-year programs (e.g. directed self-placement, IRW and stretch) are successful at retaining students, improving compliance with EO 665 (system-wide, roughly 85% of students are compliant within their first year), and improving graduation rates; and

WHEREAS The Academic Senate of the California State University and the CSU English Council both expressed their opposition and grave concerns related to the implementation of Mandatory Early Start in Academic Senate Resolution AS-2895-09/AA/APEP and AS-2926-09/AA/APEP as well as the April 2010 CSU English Council’s Position Statement; and
WHEREAS The faculty trustee position on the CSU Board of Trustees remains vacant and as a result faculty had no direct input in the board’s decision making process; and

WHEREAS The considered wisdom of the faculty of the CSU should be the predominant factor in shaping curriculum and academic programming within the CSU; and

WHEREAS Over the objections of the CSU English Council and the Statewide Academic Senate, the Board of Trustees has imposed the implementation of Mandatory Early Start Programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University registers its objection to the implementation of Early Start programs as a pre-condition for enrollment at SFSU; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University opposes the use of tests, such as the ELM and the EPT, which were originally designed as placement instruments, to either grant or deny otherwise qualified first-time freshmen access to San Francisco State University; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University joins our colleagues in the Statewide Academic Senate and the CSU English Council in urging that serious attention be paid to the financial consequences—both to campuses and to individual students—resulting from the Early Start implementation; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University distribute this resolution to the CSU Board of Trustees, the Office of the Chancellor, the Chair of the Academic Senate of the CSU, campus Presidents, Provosts and Senate Chairs, the President of the English Council of the CSU, and the Chair of the Mathematics Council of the CSU.
***Approved by the Academic Senate at its meeting on October 19, 2010***