Resolution Number: RF93-128
September, 1993

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 174, "THE PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION INITIATIVE"

At its meeting of October 12, 1993, the Academic Senate approved the following resolution opposing Proposition 174, "The Parental Choice in Education Initiative:"

WHEREAS The California State University has an interest in assuring that students who graduate from California schools are well-prepared for study at the university level; and

WHEREAS California voters will decide on November 2, 1993, whether to approve Proposition 174, "The Parental Choice in Education Initiative," a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would provide that vouchers' be made available to schools in support of children whose families elect to send them to such 'voucher-redeeming' schools; and

WHEREAS A well-crafted proposal to encourage wider ranges of options for parents and their children as they make educational choices might be supportable, especially if such a proposal a) contemplated a pilot or experimental program from which educators and parents might learn, b) did no apparent damage to important values now pursued in public schools, such as non-discrimination, c) contemplated no loss of support for children who would remain in public schools, and d) insured the maintenance of high professional standards, especially for teachers; and

WHEREAS Proposition 174, "The Parental Choice in Education Initiative," if adopted, would be a state constitutional amendment, applying immediately and for the indefinite future unless altered by a subsequent popular vote, and thus is surely not a pilot or experimental program designed to secure experience with different structures for elementary and secondary education; and

WHEREAS Proposition 174, "The Parental Choice in Education Initiative," carries within it insufficient safeguards for the preservation of important values now sought through public schools, such as non-discrimination, and indeed would apparently permit voucher-redeeming, non-public schools to admit students based upon income level, gender, IQ testing, athletic ability, religion, or disability; and

WHEREAS Proposition 174, "The Parental Choice in Education Initiative," would apparently cause the loss of over $2 billion from public school funding to cover vouchers for students currently enrolled in private schools; and

WHEREAS Proposition 174, "The Parental Choice in Education Initiative," sets no standards for teacher training or certification which must be met in the hiring of faculty for the non-public schools that would be eligible to redeem vouchers; therefore be it

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University, oppose Proposition 174, "The Parental Choice in Education Initiative;" and be it further

RESOLVED That this resolution of opposition be circulated throughout the campus community so as to help educate faculty, administrators, staff, and students concerning the apparent impacts of Proposition 174, "The Parental Choice in Education Initiative."