Resolution Number: RS02-195
January, 2002

ACADEMIC
SENATE

Resolution

on a Moratorium on the Death Penalty

#RS02-195

Whereas

The spirit of the university
is embodied in open and rational discourse, humane forms of problem-solution,
the humility inevitably generated by the quest for knowledge, and dedication
to justice; and

Whereas

The
anger and fear ensuing from crimes very often incomprehensible to the average
individual
are inimical and even contrary to the values and spirit of the academy;
and

Whereas

The
knowledge resulting from new technologies makes it apparent that the death
penalty has
resulted from evidence persuasive in the moment
but later (and sometimes irremediably)
shown to be inconclusive; and

Whereas

It
has been demonstrated repeatedly that the death penalty is unfairly applied
to individuals
on
the basis of their racial and/or ethnic background, ignorance and poverty,
major mental
retardation,
and/or severe emotional deprivation or damage, and substandard legal
representation; and
Whereas
The report of a highly-respected commission comprised of both supporters and opponents of
the death penalty calls for massive reforms in the way states and the federal government
now conceptualize and use the death penalty; and

Whereas
For many of these reasons the states of Illinois and Maryland recently enacted a moratorium
on the death penalty; therefore be it

Resolved
That the SFSU Academic Senate endorse actions to place a moratorium on the death penalty
in the state of California, and further be it

Resolved
That the SFSU Academic Senate urge its elected representatives to support pending legislation
calling for a moratorium on executions; and further be it

Resolved
That the SFSU Academic Senate reaffirm its commitment to the values of reason, open
discourse, and justice that give vitality to the more mundane activities of the university;
and further be it
Resolved

the SFSU Academic Senate send copies of this resolution to Governor Gray Davis,

Speaker of the California Assembly Robert M. Hertsberg,

California Senate Chair Pro Tem

John Burton, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, Californians for a Moratorium on Executions,

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, and California State University Chancellor

Charles B. Reed.

*** APPROVED WITHOUT DISSENT MAY 14, 2002 ***