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

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

That 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 ***