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 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. Hertzberg,
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 ***