

Resolution Number: RS02-196
January, 2002

Academic

Senate

Resolution

on Welfare Reform Reauthorization

#RS02-196

Whereas The

United States Congress must reauthorize the 1996 Welfare Reform legislation that sought to "end welfare as we know it" and that mandated a "work first" policy limiting the educational options for people receiving public assistance; and

Whereas The 1996 legislation limited the amount

of time people could receive training for employment before losing public assistance; and

Whereas The 1996 legislation mandated that people receiving

public assistance start paid work after a minimal time, and increase their working hours to 32 hours a week over an 18 month period; and

Whereas Current research demonstrates that the "work first"

policy has reduced the numbers of people receiving public assistance since 1996 without decreasing the poverty rates among those same people; and

Whereas Research consistently indicates that the most

significant gains in income are made by those who persist to a college degree; and

Whereas The availability of affordable

child care is a critical determining factor in persistence to completion of education for people with children; and

Whereas Current

legislative proposals before Congress would make education even more difficult to obtain for people receiving public assistance, increase the work mandate from 32 hours to 40 hours a week, and make significantly fewer child care options available for people receiving public assistance; therefore be it

Resolved

That the Academic Senate at San FranciscoStateUniversity urge Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to take the lead in proposing a Senate bill that will provide a just and fair reform of current welfare provisions by including the following:

·"stop

the clock" -- extend the federal time limits for people seeking education and training;

·count

education and homework time as approved work time;

·decrease

the number of work hours required for the receipt of public assistance, and increase the community service options for that work;

·include

the four-year college option as an authorized choice available to people receiving public assistance;

·restate

that the avowed purpose of Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) is to end child and family poverty.

*****APPROVED**

UNANIMOUSLY WITH APPLAUSE

May 14, 2002***
