

**Resolution Number:** RS11-291  
January, 2011

## **ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION**

**(#RS11-291)**

**RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF SHAWN WHALEN,**

**SF STATE ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR, 2008-2011**

WHEREAS Over the past three years Shawn Whalen selflessly, and temporarily, stepped away from a vaunted career in Communications Studies and as Director of SF State's award-winning Forensics Team in order to advance and defend the principles of shared governance as Chair of the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University; and

WHEREAS Shawn Whalen has been a role-model for the campus community in his dedication to complete and open consultation with faculty, staff, students and administrators on a broad range of matters; and

WHEREAS Shawn Whalen has been an active participant in the Education Budget Advocacy Committee, working tirelessly to advocate in Sacramento on behalf of higher education and stave off further cuts to San Francisco State University, and coordinating a statewide collaboration of CSU Senate Chairs on a letter writing campaign to impress upon elected officials the importance of adequately funding public higher education in California; and

WHEREAS In an era that appears to have abandoned the long-held civic and rhetorical virtues thought to underlie the sound functioning of democratic governance, Shawn Whalen displays a deeply-felt 18th century sensibility in his persistent belief that rational argumentation can produce decisions acceptable to the majority in a community; and

WHEREAS Shawn Whalen has found ways to actualize this belief, along with the arts and skills of his academic discipline, to the benefit of the SF State community; and

WHEREAS Shawn Whalen has given to the SF State community a gift of time and sustained effort far exceeding the value of the assigned time granted to Senate chairs, and at cost to his family life, his customary leisure activities, and his peace of mind; and

WHEREAS Chairing the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University -- a congeries of colorful, occasionally intemperate, tenaciously independent characters with diverse levels of political acumen and rhetorical ability --is a labor of love, an act of devotion to the university, and a mitzvah of unquestioned magnitude; therefore be it

RESOLVED That on behalf of the entire SF State community, the Academic Senate declare its enduring gratitude to Shawn Whalen for the work he has done for its students, faculty, and administrators; and further be it

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate, SF State, honor Shawn Whalen by continuing to practice the principles and rhetorical virtues he has brought to it during the past three years; and further be it

RESOLVED That Shawn Whalen be declared a man for all academic seasons; and further be it

RESOLVED That Shawn Whalen be granted a substantial measure of post-Senate free time and dignity with which to pursue aforesaid leisure activities, even including golf; and further be it

RESOLVED That Shawn Whalen be universally recognized as a “guy who rocks” and therefore entitled to the use of special epithets including, but not limited to, *vir optimus*, *Ānthropos kallistĀ<sup>3</sup>s*, *Mekhunakh*, *Huttuck Thlampko*, *Gentilhomme*, *Aziim*, *fĀichĀjng hĀo nĀjnrĀĀn*, and *Mensch*.

**\*\*\* Approved by the Academic Senate at its meeting on May 10, 2011 \*\*\***

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