



SAN JOSE
STATE
UNIVERSITY

A campus of The California State University

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SS-S00-5

At its meeting of May 1, 2000, the SJSU Academic Senate passed the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Jonathan Roth for Curriculum and Research Committee.

SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION

PROPOSED TITLE 5 REVISIONS

Whereas: The Board of Trustees is considering a proposal to revise Article 6 of Subchapter 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 5 on regulations governing the Undergraduate Degree reducing the minimum number of semester units required for all baccalaureate degrees issued by CSU campuses from 124 semester units to 120 (or 180 quarter units), and furthermore, requires that "each campus shall establish and maintain a monitoring system to ensure that acceptable justification is provided for all program requirements that extend the baccalaureate unit requirement beyond the normative minimum of 120 units," and

Whereas: The Board intends to act on this proposal at its May 5, 2000 plenary meeting,

Therefore, be it

Resolved: That this resolution be forwarded to the Board of Trustees, Chancellor's Office, State Academic Senate and the Academic Senate of CSU Humboldt and

this causal relationship in the context of CSU students who often need remediation and additional social support to finish their degrees.

- b. b. The proposal justifies a reduction of units to 120 based on a "belief" that the unit number of 124 was arbitrarily continued as a unit minimum when it should have been reduced after the deletion of a four-unit physical education activity requirement, yet again provides no concrete historical evidence.
- c. The proposal suggests that the CSU be guided in this decision by "common practice in California and nationally to make 120 semester units the minimum to be required for graduation" without examining the context and comparability of institutions that are currently following the 120 semester unit policy.
- d. The proposal argues that the bachelor s degree is but an intermediate phase of an individual s educational life and refers to the National Center for Education Statistics report that states "72 percent of [sampled] baccalaureate degree recipients who had

SJSU Academic Senate to be significant as follows:

- a. While BAs are normally 124 units at San Jose State University, many other undergraduate degrees are presently at least 132 units. The proposal represents on average nearly a ten percent reduction in the number of units to degree, almost a full semester's load from the student's perspective. The direct and indirect costs will be significant as campuses undertake policy revisions and curricular reviews. Direct costs will stem from a heavy investment of time, energy and resources, on the part of faculty, staff and administrators, in reorganizing the standing curricula to meet the new limit. The work involved in justifying or changing each of these degree programs will be excessive and unwarranted in view of the uncertain gains from imposing the proposed monitoring system.
 - b. The social cost of this proposal would likely be pressure to reduce the number of General Education units required. CSU students should not be short-changed in learning the communication and computational skills, the global, cultural, historical and socioeconomic perspectives, and other aspects of general education.
8. This appears to be another example of an initiative, whose implications and effects have not been thought through before being imposed on the system by the central administration as discussed in the Out of Crisis White Paper, endorsed by the SJSU Academic Senate (AS 1073) and six other campus Academic Senates. The implementation of these proposed revisions in Title 5 will result in widespread discontent and consternation among many faculty, staff and administrators, as they again scramble to put a program, developed without their consultation, into place against their better judgments. The sudden appearance of this proposal indicates that despite assurances made by the CSU system that the culture of top-down, centralized management discussed in the White Paper shows no sign of changing.