San José State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192

SS-S25-1, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Statement of Solidarity with the Sonoma State Community

WHEREAS, the California State University System (CSU) is made up of 23 individual campuses and each campus has a unique history and educational environment; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the CSU is to:

> To advance and extend knowledge, learning, and culture, especially throughout California.
> To provide opportunities for individuals to develop intellectually, personally, and professionally.
> To prepare significant numbers of educated, responsible people to contribute to California's schools, economy, culture, and future.
> To encourage and provide access to an excellent education to all who are prepared for and wish to participate in collegiate study.
> To offer undergraduate and graduate instruction leading to bachelor's and higher degrees in the liberal arts and sciences, the applied fields, and the professions, including the doctoral degree when authorized.
> To prepare students for international, multi-cultural society.
> To provide public services that enrich the university and its communities.

WHEREAS, the CSU system has projected substantial budget shortfalls currently and in the immediate future. CSU management has projected a significant state funding shortfall of roughly $400 million – $800 million for the 2025-26 academic year to the estimated operating budget of $8.3 billion[1].

WHEREAS, given budgetary constraints and enrollment challenges, on Wednesday 22 January, Sonoma State University (SSU) Interim President Cutrer, in cooperation with the CSU Chancellor's office, eliminated 23 academic programs, closed

students, staff, and faculty. Additionally, Rohnert Park, SSU's hometown, is anticipating substantial economic impacts from these cuts[2]; and

WHEREAS; The Academic Senate of CSU Stanislaus recently passed a resolution of support for Sonoma State University; and

WHEREAS:, The Academic Senate of San Jose State University (SJSU) joins our CSU Stanislaus colleagues to support SSU students, faculty, and staff impacted by these changes; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Academic Senate of SJSU urges Chancellor Garcia, Interim President Cutrer, and CSU leadership to employ collaborative decision-making for all proposed changes going forward. Collaborative, consensus-driven processes ensure that diverse voices are included in consequential decisions. Collaborative decision-making promotes equity, fairness, and balanced outcomes; CSU leadership should also strive to establish responsible, resilient, and healthy financial policies and restrain unnecessary administrative spending and expansion when funding is sufficient. and

RESOLVED, that the SJSU community, in solidarity with SSU, urges Interim President Cutrer and Chancellor Garcia to reconsider the proposed changes at SSU and commit to restarting the process using consensus-building decision-making ; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to the following with request to share widely:

- Governor Gavin Newsom
- Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
- Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire
- Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
- Senate Education Committee Chair Al Muratsuchi
- Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Chair Scott Wiener
- Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 1 Chair John Laird
- Assembly Higher Education Committee Chair Mike Fong
- Assembly Budget Committee Chair Jesse Gabriel
- Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3 Chair David Alvarez
- CSU Board of Trustees
- Chancellor Mildred Garcia
- Academic Senate of the CSU Chair Elizabeth Boyd
- California State Students Association President Iese Esera
- Interim SSU President Emily Cutrer
- SSU Academic Senate Chair Emily Acosta Lewis
- California Faculty Association

[2] Windsor, S. (2025, January 27). Rohnert Park mayor, businesses respond to Sonoma State University cuts.

- California State University Employees Union
- Teamsters Local 2010
- UAW - Academic Student Employees