



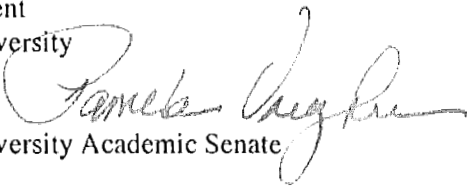
ACADEMIC SENATE

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ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION

May 24, 2012

**TO:** Robert Corrigan, President  
San Francisco State University

**FROM:** Pamela Vaughn, Chair   
San Francisco State University Academic Senate

**RE:** **Resolution Marking a GVAR Milestone and Offering Commendation and Affirmation, #RS12-299**

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**SOURCE COMMITTEE:**

Executive Committee

**SENATE ACTION:**

At its meeting on May 01, 2012 the Academic Senate approved as a consent item, the **Resolution Marking a GVAR Milestone and Offering Commendation and Affirmation, #RS12-299.**

Thank you.

cc: Sue V. Rosser, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Patricia Bartscher, University Counsel  
Sheila Botein, Faculty Coordinator, Learning Assistance Center  
Anne Krause, Chair, Committee on Written English Proficiency  
Gail Evans, Dean Undergraduate Studies  
Helen Goldsmith, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies  
Morris Head, Senior Coordinator, Campus Academic Resource Program  
✓Mary Soliday, Director, WAC/WID Program

ec: All Deans, Associate Deans, and Department Chairs  
Linda Buckley, Associate Vice President, Academic Planning and Development  
Ann Hallum, Dean, Graduate Studies  
Alexandra Katz, Curriculum Coordinator, Academic Planning and Development  
Trevor Getz, Faculty Director of General Education  
Beverly Voloshin, Chair, English Department

Attachment.

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## ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION

#RS12-299

### RESOLUTION MARKING A GVAR MILESTONE & OFFERING COMMENDATION AND AFFIRMATION

- WHEREAS The University Writing Task Force (2004) discovered in a broad study of the campus that SF State University students fell short of the academy's standards for proficient written English; and
- WHEREAS To address the problem in the upper division, the Task Force recommended that the University revise the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR), which the Academic Senate approved as University Policy in 2007; and
- WHEREAS The University's most recent strategic plan (CUSP II, 2005-10) states that "San Francisco State University makes writing central to education and ensures that its graduates write proficiently" (Goal #2); and
- WHEREAS To affirm the importance writing across the curriculum and within the disciplines, the University hired a Director to implement a new Writing Across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines (WAC/WID) Program; and
- WHEREAS A representative group of 90 faculty from all Colleges developed the Criteria for GVAR, which the Committee on Written English Proficiency (CWEP) distilled into a policy, and the Academic Senate approved as University Policy in 2009; and
- WHEREAS The Academic Senate has consistently affirmed the University Policy on GVAR and the Criteria for GVAR courses (S2007; S2009; F2010); and
- WHEREAS The Committee on Written English Proficiency (CWEP) has approved or has considered for future approval courses satisfying the GVAR for every major on campus, thus achieving a significant milestone for our campus; and
- WHEREAS Substantial labor by the Registrar; CWEP; Academic Affairs, including the Division of Undergraduate Studies, the Office of Academic Resources, and the Office of Academic Planning and Development; Associate Deans of the Colleges and Chairs of Departments; the Tutoring Centers and SF State Library; and, especially, both the full- and part-time Faculty, has been expended to establish, support, and assess courses now serving approximately 4,000 students annually; and
- WHEREAS The Academic Senate of San Francisco State University has previously affirmed its support of GVAR (Summary and Recommendations, approved March 13, 2012); therefore be it

- RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University recognize and applaud the significant labor of the parties mentioned above in establishing and implementing GWAR; and be it further
- RESOLVED That the Academic Senate commend the University community for its tangible demonstration of the ways in which an all-university effort can achieve positive results and improve student success in writing; and be it further
- RESOLVED That the Academic Senate commend and thank Dr. Mary Soliday, Director of the WAC/WID Program, and the members of CWEP for their tireless efforts in supporting the University's goals and mission; and be it further
- RESOLVED That the Academic Senate recognize early signs of the efficacy of a program that improves student writing and learning and that has begun to institutionalize a culture that promotes best practices in teaching and learning for all university undergraduates; and be it further
- RESOLVED That even in these perilous budget times, the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University continue to embrace writing proficiency as one of the institution's highest priorities and reaffirm its curricular commitments to GWAR-designated courses and GWAR Course Criteria.

**\*\*APPROVED BY GENERAL CONSENT OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE ON MAY 8, 2012\*\***