**Information about Mission Statements**

**Mission Statements – What do we do, why do we do it, how do we do it, who are we doing it for?**

*Why are they important? (from NAU)* Understanding and articulating your program’s overall goals, purpose, and values accomplishes a number of things for your degree program. First, it synthesizes the many unique talents and goals of your faculty and aligns them into a single, common purpose. The identification of a common purpose assists faculty in making decisions concerning program and course level learning outcomes. In addition, it guides and focuses your program's decision processes concerning important assessment questions and directions needing investigation, based on your program's larger direction, values, and goals.

A program mission statement (from NAU, UConn and elsewhere)
- Is a broad statement of the educational purpose of the program, describes the community the program serves, and states the values and guiding principles which define its standards
- Sets the tone and philosophical position from which the programs goals/objectives/outcomes are developed
- Describes both the purpose and the learning environment of the program
- Reflects how the program contributes to the education and careers of students graduating from the program
- Reflects how the teaching and research efforts are used to enhance student learning
- Is aligned with department, college and university missions
- Should be distinctive for the program

**San Francisco State University Mission Statement Academic Senate Policy #S15-176**

From the heart of a diverse community, San Francisco State University honors roots, stimulates intellectual and personal development, promotes equity, and inspires the courage to lead, create, and innovate.

SF State is a major public urban university, situated in one of the world’s great cities. Building on a century-long history of commitment to quality teaching and broad access to undergraduate and graduate education, the University offers comprehensive, rigorous, and integrated academic programs that require students to engage in open-minded inquiry and reflection. SF State encourages its students, faculty, and staff to engage fully with the community and develop and share knowledge.

Inspired by the diversity of our community that includes many first-generation college students, and the courage of an academic community that strives to break down traditional boundaries, SF State equips its students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. With the unwavering commitment to social justice that is central to the work of the university, SF State prepares its students to become productive, ethical, active citizens with a global perspective.