

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

**SS-S24-2, Sense of the Senate Resolution, In Support of
Campus Culture of Collegial Curriculum Decision in
Response to CSU Chancellor's Office and CSU Trustees
Impending Plans to Changes to General Education**

Whereas: San José State University Senate has historically entrusted curriculum decisions to departments, college curriculum committees, the Senate's [Curriculum and Research Committee \(C&R\)](#), and the SJSU [General Education Advisory Committee \(GEAC\)](#); and

Whereas: the SJSU Academic Senate has received regular reports about discussions and resolutions [AS-3615-AA](#), [AS-3639-AA](#), [AS-3666](#) of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) recommending not to change CSU General Education Breadth requirements and Title 5 that affects CSU GE Breadth requirements; and

Whereas: The SJSU Academic Senate received a report in fall 2023 from the Chair of C&R and the ASCSU (statewide) senator serving on the SJSU's Senate Executive Committee about [AB928](#) and [Cal-GETC](#) that: (1) emphasized a focus on local practices; (2) attested to the value of general education to students; and (3) urged for more evidence about the impact of proposed changes through a survey of SJSU faculty and students; and

Whereas: The respondents of the San José State University Senate Survey regarding AB928 and Cal-GETC were split on changes proposed by the CSU Chancellor's office on implementation of Cal-GETC, including the reduction of 5 GE units by removing Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development, and a reduction of one course in the Arts and Humanities and Behavioral Sciences requirements, and an addition of a laboratory unit associated with bio/physical sciences, and a singular pathway to transfers. Nevertheless, survey respondents overwhelmingly agreed on the importance of General Education, and affirmed their support for proper consultation and the continuation of a collegial culture of collective decision-making on curriculum at SJSU; and

Whereas: The SJSU Academic Senate leadership has been included in and made aware of debates through local communication about probable actions regarding GE

changes and their potentially negative impact on some departments and colleges;
and

Whereas: Such communications have resulted in concrete assurances from campus administration to identify tangible ways to support affected departments and faculty;
and

Whereas: Lack of collegial curriculum decision and meaningful consultation with ASCSU will undoubtedly exacerbate issues of campus climate for faculty and students in a time of multiple social crises (e.g., enrollment struggles, budgetary deficits, and tuition increases, etc.); therefore, be it

Resolved that the Academic Senate of San José State University strongly affirms its support of the ASCSU resolutions named herein; and be it further

Resolved that the Academic Senate of San José State University calls for local administrative support in addressing concerns about faculty roles in curriculum decisions; and be it further

Resolved that the Academic Senate of San José State University calls for local administrative support in resolving any negative consequences of GE changes on faculty who teach GE courses and departments which need GE courses to maintain enrollment and remain in good standing, should alignment be adopted; and be it further

Resolved that the Academic Senate of San José State University believes that insufficient careful study has been conducted to understand the implications of aligning CSU GE Breadth with Cal-GETC and therefore calls for an academically rigorous data-informed analysis be undertaken to understand the implications for student success making changes in CSU GE Breadth at the lower division before any decision to change CSU GE Breadth is made; and be if further.

Resolved that the Academic Senate of San José State University, in consultation and conversation with relevant constituencies (e.g., the General Education Advisory Committee, department chairs, chairs of curriculum committees) debate the following

1. The implications of aligning CSU General Education (GE) with California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC).
2. How might programs and campuses use the 5 units released from CSU GE to serve the educational interests of our students, should alignment be adopted; and be it further

Resolved that the Academic Senate of San José State University unites with the other CSU campuses in voicing grave concern over the process by which changes to

GE coming down from the Board of Trustees, and the potential detrimental effects to campus collegiality and faculty authority on curriculum.

Workload Impact: None expected

Financial Impact: Potential financial support to impacted programs

Julia Curry
Stefan Frazier
Ravisha Mathur
Sabrina Pinnell
Simon Rodan
Mark Van Selst
Hiu Yung Wong