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SS-S00-3

At its meeting of February 28, 2000, the SJSU Academic Senate passed the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by James Brent for the Executive Committee.

SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 26

- WHEREAS, considering that the vast majority of San José State students attended California public schools before their admission to SJSU, this university has a vested interest in the quality of K-12 education in California, and
- WHEREAS, out of the 50 states, California ranks 41st in the nation in its per-pupil spending on K-12 education (source: *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 3, 1999)
- WHEREAS, local property taxes were the main source of funding for K-12 education, until the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 significantly reduced the amount of property tax funds available for public schools, and
- WHEREAS, California law currently requires a supermajority vote of 2/3 in order to pass all local school bonds, making it only one of two states with this requirement, and
- WHEREAS, between 1995 and 1999, only 60% of local school bonds achieved this supermajority, while 91% of these bonds would have passed if a simple majority vote had been required (source: Budget Brief of the California Budget Project)

WHEREAS, although increased spending alone is not sufficient to improve the performance of California s schools, it is an essential element of such improvement, and

WHEREAS, "minority rule" is antithetical to democratic ideals, and

WHEREAS, Proposition 26 would change constitutional and statutory law so that local school bonds would require a simple majority for passage, in addition to providing accountability requirements for school districts that wish to issue such bonds, be it therefore

RESOLVED: that the SJSU Academic Senate supports the passage of Proposition 26.