WHEREAS, The level of state general funding for higher education in California is inadequate to provide students with a quality system of instruction and support; and

WHEREAS, The level of state general funding and the level of tuition and fees is subject to vagaries in the California economy and in its budgeting process; and

WHEREAS, Access to higher education for all qualified students is an acknowledged priority of the state and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, California’s tuition and fees are among the lowest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, There is little justification for subsidizing all students with low tuition and fees; and

WHEREAS, Long range, strategic planning in higher education is stymied by tardy budgets and uncertain revenues; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the CSU Board of Trustees, state legislators, and the Governor’s Office develop and implement a rational, long term, strategic budget plan for higher education; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That the CSU Board of Trustees, state legislators, and the Governor’s Office implement over the next five years, a stable and predictable schedule of tuition and fees that recognizes the relative ability of each California family to pay while maintaining a quality and sustainable system of higher education, and; concurrently, be it further

RESOLVED: That the CSU Board of Trustees, state legislators, and the Governor’s Office implement over the next five years a system to: identify and address all forms of subsidy provided to students, reconcile the true marginal costs of educating students within the CSU system, and establish and fund an appropriate level of financial aid that ensures a broad opportunity for student access to higher education in California; and, be it further
RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be forwarded to:

Dr. Debra S. Farar, Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees
Abel Maldonado, CA State Assemblyman
Bruce McPherson, CA State Senator
Jackie Goldberg, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Education
John Vasconcellos, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education
Jack O’Connell, Superintendent of the State Department of Education, and
Gray Davis, Governor for the State of California

Proposed by: Academic Senate Budget and Long Range Planning Committee
Date: March 12, 2003
Revised: April 7, 2003
This will acknowledge receipt of the subject Resolution that addresses a critical issue for insuring student access to the CSU system through a fee structure that is affordable and predictable.