

SJSU 1862 RESOLUTIONS

Submitted by the CSU Spartans

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WHEREAS,

1. San Jose State University, a CSU campus (“University”), is a public university, founded and established by an Act of the California Legislature as the “Normal School of the State of California” on May 2, 1862, and funded and maintained by the State of California since that date.
2. That Act established the school’s official date and year of establishment, and no authority other than the California Legislature has the legal authority to change that date and year;
3. It is common practice for public universities to use their date of state charter as their official date of establishment, even though such universities may have been derived from private or municipal schools founded earlier (e.g., UC Berkeley uses its “1868” date of charter by the State of California as its official date of establishment, and not the date of establishment of the private and public schools from which it was derived).
4. Historical documents are available proving that the University used 1862 as its official year of establishment until at least for many years, and that some University departments still use this accurate year.
5. For several years during the 1950s and 1960s San Jose State celebrated “Founder’s Day” to commemorate its May 2, 1862, founding as the California State Normal School.
6. The University’s use of “1857” as its official year of establishment, which is the year of founding of the municipal school from which SJSU was derived:
 - a. contravenes the May 2, 1862, Act of the California Legislature establishing the University and its date of establishment;
 - b. violates the well-established practice of public universities honoring their date of state charter as their official date of establishment;
 - c. dishonors the State of California, the Legislature of the State of California, and the memory of the founders, students, alumni, faculty, administrators and staff of the California State Normal School (1862-1921);

- d. dishonors the City of San Jose, since the private school founded in 1857 began and ended its existence in San Francisco and was never located in San Jose;
- e. deprives the University of an actual date of establishment, since the actual date of establishment of the 1857 private school is not known;
- f. deprives the California State University system of a date of establishment since San Jose State is the founding campus of the CSU system.

THEREFORE,

1. May 2, 1862, should be reaffirmed as the official date of establishment of the University.
2. The University should be reaffirmed as the oldest state institution of higher learning in California, and the inaccurate, inconsequential and difficult to prove “oldest public institution of higher learning on the West Coast” should be abandoned.
3. All University websites and electronic media should immediately be changed to reflect these resolutions, and printed media should be changed as soon as possible after current stocks are depleted.
4. An annual University-wide celebration of its date of its official date of establishment should take place each year on or about May 2.
5. The appropriate University officials should be directed to organize and execute such celebrations.
6. Spartan shops and all other instrumentalities of the University should immediately cease all ordering of shirts, jackets, and other apparel, gifts and gear featuring “1857” and liquidate their existing stock of any such merchandise.
7. All future orders of merchandise that traditionally bears the school’s date or year of establishment should feature May 2, 1862, or just “1862” as appropriate.
8. The school’s historic Eureka Seal on display in Tower Hall shall be modified or replaced with a version featuring “1862” instead of “1857”.