REVISED 3/25/96

Honorable Board of Trustees of the
San Francisco Community College District

Subject: Resolution No. 960328 -S6
City College Sponsorship of the 1996 ESL Speech
Competition of the Golden Gate Speech Association

President and Members:

WHEREAS: Learning to speak English is a basic necessity and a priority for many who come to this country seeking a better future for themselves and their families;

WHEREAS: City College of San Francisco continues to be a community educational institution by responding to the needs of the diverse communities of San Francisco and its changing demographics, particularly the influx of immigrants into the San Francisco Bay Area;

WHEREAS: The English as a Second Language (ESL) Department is City College of San Francisco’s largest department. Through both credit and non-credit ESL classes, thousands of students are prepared to enter “mainstream” courses, vocational programs and a better future;

WHEREAS: The Golden Gate Speech Association is the Bay Area affiliate of the National Forensics League, an organization that governs speech contests at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

WHEREAS: It was recognized that for many ESL students, regular speech competitions were a disheartening experience. To encourage continued participation by ESL students a group of San Francisco school teachers in 1991 created the ESL division of the Golden Gate Speech association to specifically provide speech opportunities for ESL students and;

WHEREAS: Such ESL speech competitions have grown dramatically over the years from 6 students in 1991 to over 150 ESL students competing in 1994-1995 from over a dozen Bay Area schools. Many ESL students have credited the fact that they received scholarships and were accepted to colleges in part to the exposure they had to public speaking;
WHEREAS: Each year a major educational institution is sought to sponsor the ESL Speech Competition, to provide a venue and some judges. In 1996, as many as 200 high school students from throughout the Bay Area will be participating in the competition.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: City College of San Francisco sponsors the 1996 ESL Speech Competition to be held April 27 at the Phelan Campus. Such sponsorship recognizes the importance of supporting such activities and the opportunity to introduce City College to participating students and their families.

Recommended for adoption:

Lawrence Wong, Trustee
Rodel Rodis, Trustee
Jim Mayo, Trustee