Resolution on the Accurate Representation of University-Generated Research

WHEREAS, A significant goal of California State University San Marcos is to be engaged with the community and to develop and sustain local community partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Many entities on campus currently are directly engaged in community partnerships in the city of Escondido, ranging from cultural, social and economic research to K-12 school partnerships; and

WHEREAS, The City of Escondido commissioned the National Latino Research Center (NLRC) to do a needs assessment of the Mission Park community; and

WHEREAS, The Escondido City Council received a memorandum from the City Attorney citing the work of the NLRC in the Mission Park community and has apparently used that report, as represented in the City Attorney's memo, to justify actions of the council; and

WHEREAS, The NLRC's Mission Park Community Survey did not address the issue of Mission Park residents' immigration status; and

WHEREAS, The conclusions of the NLRC's Mission Park Community survey do not lend themselves either to judgments about immigration policy in general or to the specific concerns addressed in the Escondido ordinance banning landlords from renting to anyone but legal immigrants or U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of CSUSM believes that the Escondido City Attorney's and the Escondido City Council's use of the NLRC's Mission Park Community Survey has misrepresented the research contained in the report; and

WHEREAS, Misrepresenting research and research studies such as the NLRC report jeopardizes CSUSM's relationship with the Mission Park community in particular and with all communities in general by undermining the trust that must exist between researchers and the communities in which they undertake research partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Not only must the university's partners trust the good faith of university researchers in undertaking community research, but university researchers must also be able to trust CSUSM's community partners to use their research results for the purposes intended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate CSUSM continues to support campus educational relationships with our local community and cooperative efforts to support our many partnerships; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate CSUSM insists upon the importance of accurate portrayals of research and educational reports and programs conducted by CSUSM faculty and research centers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate CSUSM supports the efforts of the National Latino Research Center to set the record straight about the scope of its research in the Mission Park Community Survey and about the conclusions that legitimately can be drawn from that research; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the President and Provost of CSUSM, the Director of the National Latino Research Center, the members of the Escondido City Council, the Mayor of Escondido and the Escondido City Attorney.