A Resolution of the Professional Staff Association Senate
In a regular meeting, April 5, 2006

PURPOSE: To voice staff support for the recognition of study abroad participants during Commencement Ceremonies at Boise State University.

WHEREAS: Idaho Senator Larry Craig sponsored Senate Resolution 308, which designated 2006 as “The Year of Study Abroad.”

WHEREAS: Senate Resolution 308 states, “Congress recognized through the Higher Education Act of 1965 that the security, stability, and economic vitality of the United States in an increasingly complex global age depend largely upon having a globally competent citizenry and the availability of experts specializing in world regions, foreign languages, and international affairs.”

WHEREAS: Senate Resolution 308 states that “according to the Coalition for International Education, institutions of higher education in the United States are struggling to graduate enough students with the language skills and cultural competence necessary to meet the current demands of business, government, and educational institutions.”

WHEREAS: Senate Resolution 308 states that the American Council of Education found that “only 1 percent of students from the United States currently study abroad each year,” even though “79 percent of people in the United States agree students should have a study abroad experience sometime during college.”

WHEREAS: The number of study abroad participants at Boise State experienced a four-fold increase over the previous five years (from 23 students for the 1999-2000 academic year, to 114 for the 2004-2005 academic year. Figures for the 2005-2006 academic year will not be calculated until all summer applications are in, currently, we are at 100 students.)

WHEREAS: International Students at Boise State University are studying abroad while working toward degrees in the United States. These students pay out-of-state tuition, and contribute over $6.5 million to Idaho’s economy. (Please see attached: NAFSA Economic Contribution by State, 2003-2004)

WHEREAS: U.S. Senate Resolution 308 resolved that “the Senate encourages the people of the United States to observe “The Year of Study Abroad” with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.”

WHEREAS: Over 25 American Colleges and Universities recognize study abroad participants with a notation in the graduation program, and with regalia such as a sash or a patch. (List available upon request)
BE IT RESOLVED: We support the International Programs Office in their proposal for international students and returned study abroad participants to wear ribbons that display the colors of the flags of those countries in the Commencement Ceremony.

TO BE DIRECTED TO: The Commencement Committee
Wyatt Parke, President, Associated Students of Boise State University
Roderic Lewis, President, Idaho State Board of Education

Approved in Senate by a vote of: Aye 7 Nay 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Signed
Mike Esposito, President, Boise State Professional Staff Association

c: Dr. Robert Kustra, Boise State University President
Dr. Sona Andrews, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mark Wheeler, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs