

Resolution Honoring Jim Donovan

Whereas, Jim Donovan has served California State University, Fullerton as Athletics Director since December 2012, providing sustained leadership to Titans Athletics and strengthening the student-athlete experience; and

Whereas, President Ronald Rochon announced that Jim Donovan will retire effective July 31, 2026, and, in recognition of his impact, named him Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics; and

Whereas, during his tenure, Titans Athletics achieved tremendous competitive success, including 33 Big West Conference championships and the University’s first Big West Commissioner’s Cup (2018) for best overall performance in the conference; and

Whereas, Titans Baseball’s enduring tradition and the achievements of its alumni — including World Series participation and roles as managers and coaches — continue to bring distinction to Cal State Fullerton; and

Whereas, Titans Softball has sustained championship-level success during Jim Donovan’s tenure, and most recently captured the 2026 Big West Championship with an undefeated conference-tournament run to secure the program’s 33rd NCAA Tournament appearance; and

Whereas, he strengthened academic support for student-athletes, contributing to an increase in the six-year student-athlete graduation rate from 68% to 80%; and

Whereas, Titans Athletics’ academic performance reached historic levels, including a combined 3.21 GPA for student-athletes (highest all-athlete GPA in school history excluding a pandemic-era mark); and

Whereas, he inspired philanthropic support of more than \$23 million for Titans Athletics; and

Whereas, he oversaw approximately \$28 million in capital improvements, including new and upgraded facilities supporting baseball, basketball, aquatics, and other programs; and

Whereas, his leadership was recognized when the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) named him a 2019 Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year; and

Whereas, his service extended beyond campus through systemwide leadership, including participation on the CSU Ad Hoc Intercollegiate Athletics Task Force that supported development of CSU Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) guidance; and therefore, be it

Resolved, that in recognition of Jim Donovan’s years of service, leadership, and enduring contributions to Cal State Fullerton, the Academic Senate hereby honors him upon his retirement effective July 31, 2026, and expresses its gratitude for his commitment to student-athletes, coaches, staff, and the broader Titan community; and be it further

Resolved, that as the great Hawaiian song states,
Aloha ‘oe, aloha ‘oe
One fond embrace
Until we meet again; and be it finally

Resolved that the Academic Senate extends best wishes to Jim Donovan and his family in retirement and hopes that he invites US ALL for cookies and mai tais on the beach.