

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
University Senate

**Resolution to Amend the Bylaws of the University Senate to Clarify Quorum Requirements for
Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

01-16/17-CBC – September 6, 2016 – First Reading

RESOLVED: Strike out last sentence in 10.74: "A majority of members shall constitute a quorum for the committee."

Insert a new section 10.75 that reads: "A quorum of a committee shall be a majority of members with at least one representative from the faculty and at least one representative from either staff or students. When calculating a majority of members, vacant seats shall not be considered. If a committee member is unable to attend a meeting, a proxy may be appointed in accordance with the same rules as for Senate proxies (Bylaws section 6.0). Proxies will be counted toward quorum."

RATIONALE: *Currently committee quorum requires a majority of the total membership. When vacancies exist for some standing committees, the number of filled seats is the same as or just one more than the number required for quorum. Hence some committees are in jeopardy of not making quorum if one or two members are absent. This resolution proposes two clarifications that will make it more likely for committees to make quorum and conduct business: 1) excluding vacancies from the quorum calculation and 2) allowing proxies to count toward quorum. The resolution also "qualifies" quorum so that at least one faculty member and one member from either staff or students must be present. This acknowledges the spirit of shared governance by requiring that at least two-thirds of our electorates should be at the table when deliberating committee matters.*