

**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**University Senate**

**Resolution to Amend Section 9.0 of the *Constitution of the University Senate* to Specify Time Limits for Electorates to Ratify Senate Constitution Amendments**

05-16/17-CBC - November 1, 2016 – First Reading

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate recommends these amendments to Section 9.0 of the *Constitution of the University Senate* be forwarded to the Senate electorates for ratification.

*Proposed Revision with Track Changes*

**9.0 Amendments**

9.1 ~~Proposed~~ amendments to this Constitution shall be recommended ~~initiated~~ by a majority vote of the Senate after having been presented at ~~the~~ the previous regular meeting. Proposed amendments must be recommended by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> week of instruction during the semester in which they are to be ratified. ~~Senate approved proposals to amend this Constitution shall then be forwarded to the General Faculty, Associated Students, and Staff Council for a vote. Proposed amendments shall be adopted if approved by a simple majority in a vote of the general faculty and approval by either Associated Students Council or Staff Council.~~

9.2 ~~Senate approved~~ recommended proposals ~~amendments~~ to amend this Constitution shall then be forwarded to the General Faculty, Associated Students, and Staff Council for a ratification vote. Associated Students and Staff Council must receive the proposed amendments in time to have two regularly scheduled meetings left in the semester to deliberate.

9.3 ~~Proposed amendments shall be adopted if approved by a simple majority in a vote of the General Faculty and approval by either Associated Students Council or Staff Council. If any electorate does not vote on the proposed amendments by the end of the semester, that electorate will be considered to have abstained from the vote.~~

**RATIONALE:** *Proposed amendments to the Senate Constitution require majority approval by the General Faculty and approval by either AS or Staff Council. Last spring the Constitution and Bylaws Committee interpreted Section 9.0 of the Senate Constitution to mean that all three electorates must first hold a vote on proposed amendments before they could be considered ratified. This interpretation was upheld by the Senate. This interpretation allows for a loophole whereby AS or Staff Council could delay a vote on proposed amendments and prevent passage even if the General Faculty and the other electorate had already voted to ratify. These proposed changes will prevent that type of dilatory action. They require electorates to vote on proposed*

*amendments by the end of the semester or they will be considered to have abstained. They also provide ample time for AS and Staff Council to deliberate proposed amendments so that these electorates are not forced into a rushed decision.*