

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

**Resolution to Add *Section 10.0 Interpretation* to the *Constitution of the University Senate***

16-16/17-CBC – February 7, 2017 – First Reading

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate recommends the attached amendment to the *Constitution of the University Senate* be forwarded to the Senate electorates for ratification in Spring 2017.

*Amendment*

**10.0 Interpretation**

10.1 Requests for interpretation of Senate actions, Senate-approved documents and Senate governing documents must be initiated by at least two voting members of the Senate.

10.2 Requests for interpretation shall be forwarded to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee which will formulate a written interpretation.

10.3 The written interpretation shall be placed on the Senate agenda as an action item within one month of the date of request. The interpretation shall be considered binding unless rejected by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

***RATIONALE:*** *The power to interpret Senate actions and Senate approved documents is vested in Section 14.0 of the Senate Bylaws. In this section, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC) is delegated the authority to develop interpretations and forward it to the Senate for consideration. An issue arises if the interpretation involves the Constitutionality of the Senate action or Senate approved document. Historically, CBC has developed interpretations even if Constitutionality is called into question. However, CBC technically does not have the power to interpret the Senate Constitution because the power of interpretation is vested in the Senate Bylaws, which is subordinate to the Senate Constitution.*

*This amendment effectively moves the interpretation language from the Senate Bylaws to the Senate Constitution. With this amendment, CBC could continue to make interpretations that relate to Constitutionality as it has done in the past. By moving the language to the Constitution, control over who should be responsible for interpreting Senate actions would also be placed squarely into the hands of the Senate electorates.*

*This amendment also specifies the minimum bar for requesting an interpretation (two Senators) and the timeline in which CBC should produce the written interpretation (four weeks).*