

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
University Senate

**Resolution to Amend the *Bylaws of the University Senate* to Alter Requirements for Notifying
the President of Senate Actions**

15-16/17-CBC - March 7, 2017 – Second Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Humboldt State University approves the attached amendments to the *Bylaws of the University Senate*

Proposed Amendments with Track Changes

2.7 Voting:

2.71 Voting on motions to approve resolutions, sense of the senate items and other action items that do not require general consent will be taken by calling the roll of the Senate.

2.72 A roll call vote on any other motion not listed in 2.71 shall be taken if requested by a member of the Senate.

2.73 The terms “unanimous” or “without dissent” shall be used in the minutes when all votes are affirmative. Unanimous shall mean an affirmative vote without abstentions. Without dissent shall mean an affirmative vote with abstentions.

~~2.74 Policy recommendations adopted by the Senate shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which they were adopted and shall be formally presented to the President of the University after approval of the minutes.~~

~~2.75 The Senate, upon a two-thirds majority vote, may declare that an emergency exists and that a given policy recommendation or other matter before it requires immediate presentation to the President of the University or other appropriate agent.~~

9.0 PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL-NOTIFICATION OF SENATE ACTIONS

9.1 Resolutions and policy recommendations of the University Senate shall be transmitted to the University President by the Friday after the meeting in which they were approved. ~~within one week following the Senate meeting in which the minutes containing said recommendations are approved. Reactions of the University President to the policy recommendations adopted by the University Senate shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Senate within two weeks of the President's receipt of the recommendation. A Senate action approved by the President shall become official university policy at the time the President~~

~~approves the action and shall be implemented as soon as is practical, which may precede its appearance in the university policy file.~~

~~2.75~~9.2 The Senate, upon a two-thirds majority vote, may declare that an emergency exists and that an approved resolution or given policy recommendation or other matter before it requires immediate presentation~~be transmitted~~ to the President of the University or other appropriate agent~~by noon of the following business day.~~

9.29.3 The Chair of the Senate shall ensure that the President is informed promptly notified of Senate approved resolutions and policy recommendations actions by the appropriate deadline. At each Senate meeting, the Chair of the Senate shall report the status of resolutions and policy recommendations that were transmitted to the President. ~~that would require implementation in fewer than two weeks after Senate action, in order that such action is not unduly delayed.~~

~~9.3~~ ~~In the absence of official communication from the President of the University regarding policy recommendations adopted by the University Senate, presidential approval of the recommendations shall be presumed.~~

RATIONALE: *The Policy on Policies (recommended by Senate Resolution 06-16/17-UPC and approved by President Rossbacher on 02/15/17) stipulates a timeline for the President to respond to Senate action and a procedure that policy must follow after it has been recommended by the Senate. Language related to these issues is also present in the Senate bylaws. This amendment removes that language from the bylaws. It is no longer needed since the language is now encoded in University Policy and since the Senate Bylaws cannot obligate the President to action outside of the President's participation as a member in Senate and Senate Standing Committee meetings.*

This amendment also changes the deadline to notify the President of Senate-approved resolutions and policy recommendations. Notification will normally take place at the end of the week in which the action was taken (rather than two weeks later when the minutes in which the action was recorded are approved). There is no parliamentary basis to wait for minutes to be approved before notification of an action can be sent to the President. Under this amendment and the four-week timeline now required for the President's response to Senate recommendation, the Senate could wait up to six weeks before it can reconvene to discuss the President's response at a regular meeting. For emergency items, the maximum wait time could be reduced by two weeks were the Senate to convene for a special meeting.

Lastly, this amendment explicitly requires the Chair of the Senate to report on the status of resolutions and policy recommendations which are pending Presidential approval.