HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
University Senate

Resolution to Amend the *Bylaws of the University Senate* to Alter Voting Eligibility for Election of Senate Officers
02-17/18-CBC – October 3, 2017 – Second Reading

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

12.6 Elections within the Senate

12.61 The annual election of Senate officers, Standing Committee chairs, and members of the Appointments and Elections Committee shall be conducted at a Senate meeting within one month after the election of new Senators.

i. Nominations shall be made in accordance with the provisions for eligibility outlined in the Constitution.

ii. Incoming and continuing Senators may vote in person or by proxy. Outgoing Senators may vote if the incoming Senator has not yet been determined or is absent from the meeting and has not delegated a proxy.

iii. Elections shall be conducted in the following order:
   a. Vice Chair (Chair of Faculty Affairs Committee)
   b. Third Officer (Chair of Academic Policies Committee)
   c. Co-Chair of University Resources and Planning Committee
   d. Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee
   e. Chair of the University Policies Committee
   f. Members of the Appointments and Elections Committee.

iv. Senate Officers and Appointments and Elections Committee members shall be elected for one-year terms.

v. All nominees for an office shall be listed on the first ballot. Those having the highest number of votes, and whose votes, when added together constitute a majority of the votes cast, shall appear on the next ballot. Voting shall continue in this manner until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

vi. The numerical results of all ballots shall be made available to senators.

RATIONALE: *The election of Senate Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, and Appointments and Elections Committee members for the next academic year occurs in Spring. Newly elected Senators,*

who begin their term in the next academic year, are allowed to join the Senate during this "officer election" and cast their vote. Continuing Senators are also allowed to vote. Non-continuing or "outgoing" Senators are not allowed to vote.

If interpreted strictly, student members are outgoing members since they will not necessarily be re-appointed for the following academic year. New student appointments are made several months after the officer election. Thus the bylaws effectively disenfranchise the student voice in the selection of Senate officers.

Newly elected Senators can choose to attend the officer election and vote in person or delegate their proxy to an existing Senator. However, newly elected Senators are not always aware that they can attend or of the procedure for delegating their proxy. As result it is not uncommon for a newly elected member to miss this vote. Thus the new elected member's electorate is effectively disenfranchised in the officer election.

This bylaws amendment ensures that the voice of each electorate is heard in the officer election. It maintains the current language that a newly elected Senator may vote in person or by proxy, but adds the stipulation that if a replacement Senator has not yet been selected for the outgoing member, or if the Senator who is replacing the outgoing member is not present in person or by proxy, the outgoing member can cast a vote in the officer election.

This amendment also allows for one full month after the election of new Senators for the Senate to meet to conduct the officer election. This provides more flexibility for the Senate to schedule the officer election if needed.