

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
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SM-S16-2, Senate Management Resolution, Electronic Voting

Legislative History:

At its meeting of April 25, 2016, the Academic Senate approved this Senate Management Resolution presented by Senator Shifflett for the Organization and Government Committee. This resolution modifies Senate Standing Rule 3 to allow for Electronic Voting and clarifies the voting procedure.

**Senate Management Resolution:
Electronic Voting**

Whereas: Depending on the issue, voting by the academic senate has been known to take a considerable amount of time, and

Whereas: Recently the senate acquired electronic devices that could record and display votes as they occur, and

Whereas: Clarification is needed regarding the allowed methods of voting, therefore be it

Resolved: That Senate standing rule 3 be modified as suggested in this resolution, and be it further

Resolved: That on sensitive matters, or matters when undue administrative pressure might be brought to bear, the chair of the senate shall declare a vote to be by secret ballot, and be it further

Resolved: That secret ballots may be cast electronically, and be it further

Resolved: That except in circumstances where a secret ballot is necessary, when electronic devices are used for official voting it will be done in parallel with an unofficial show of hands.

Rationale: The use of electronic devices has the potential to streamline certain elections, such as those where secret ballots are required, and/or multiple run-off elections are expected, however, other times a show-of-hands is expected to be more efficient.

Approved: 4/11/16
Vote: 7-0-0
Present: Shifflett, Beyersdorf, Becker, Curry, Mathur, Laker, Gleixner
Absent: Grosvenor, Romero
Financial Impact: None expected
Workload Impact: Increased work for senate administration to administer electronic devices, slightly offset by the reduced work in tallying votes.

Standing Rule 3 Modification Recommended:

3. Voting

- a) Electronic Voting. The senate chair shall determine on a case-by-case basis if official voting will be offered by a show of hands, or through the use of electronic devices in concert with a show of hand. The decision shall be guided by the expected efficiency of each method.
- b) Secret Ballot Voting. A secret ballot shall be required on all personnel matters except committee appointments. For all other matters, upon the request of any member and supported by five additional members, a secret ballot is also required. If voting is done electronically, no show of hands will accompany the electronic vote. A roll call vote shall be ordered upon the request of any member and supported by five additional members. If the chair faces a situation where there has been a properly supported call for a vote by secret ballot, and also a properly supported call for a roll call vote, there shall be an immediate vote to decide which type of ballot is to be taken on the motion at hand.