



ACADEMIC SENATE
for CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Celebrating 50 years

Resolutions Process Overview

ASCCC Resolutions Committee

Geoffrey Dyer, Resolutions Committee Chair

Area A Meeting

March 22, 2019

Why Resolutions?

Democracy: A Messy Enterprise

Unlike dictatorships, democratic decision-making is an often chaotic, bottom-up process involving lots of conversations, multiple levels of politicking, and rapid changes of opinion. Though seemingly chaotic—but not a free-for-all!--it tends to produce superior policy decisions because it treats participants equally, and judges ideas solely on their merit. The Academic Senate (AS) embraces the chaos and trusts the process.

Resolutions: The Primary Mechanism for Setting Policy

The AS relies on formal resolutions, a democratic process, to set direction for the organization as a whole.

RE: Solutions—Borne out of Issues

In many instances, before the AS can take action on an issue, concern, or problem, the adoption of a resolution by the body is necessary to provide direction and facilitate deeper understanding of the issue.

Resolutions Consent Calendar

Resolutions are placed on the consent calendar if they:

- Are noncontroversial,
- Do not potentially reverse a previous position,
- Do not compete with another proposed resolution.

Consent Calendar is adopted at the start of voting on Saturday.

Consent Calendar items may be pulled by:

- Any faculty attendee at an Area meeting,
- Any registered attendee by 8:20 AM on Saturday,
- When the resolutions voting begins at 8:20 AM on Saturday before the Consent Calendar is adopted.
- If you pull an item – be ready to debate it!

Resolutions and Amendments at Session

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

- Resolutions and Amendments due by Thursday at **4:45 PM**
- Mandatory meeting for contacts at **5:30 PM** for Thursday submissions
- Amendments and Urgent Resolutions due by Friday at **12:30 PM**
- Mandatory meeting for contacts at **5:00 PM**
- You must attend the session on the day you submit for the submission to go forward!

Resolutions and Amendments at Session

Resolutions submitted on Friday will be held over until next plenary session unless deemed “urgent” by the Executive Committee.

Makers of resolutions and amendments can submit motions to withdraw by end of the Submitting Amendments and Urgent Resolutions session on Friday...must be voted on by the body on Saturday.

Resolutions and Amendments at Session

Requires signatures of 4 delegates as seconders!!!

Resolutions and Amendments must be submitted *electronically* as an attachment to resolutions@asccc.org

- Resolution full text /Amendment (recopied with strikeouts and new text underlined) with Title! Do not use “track changes”.
- Include contact information

Motions for Resolutions and Amendments must be submitted to the Resolutions Chair on the appropriate form:

- Your signature
- Signatures from four delegates
- Resolution/Amendment title
- Session contact information...cell phone preferred!

Submitting a Resolution or Amendment? Do Your Homework!

Check past resolutions to see if there is already an existing senate position: <http://asccc.org/resources/resolutions>.

- Reversing existing positions requires a 2/3 vote of the body.
- Submit resolutions here: resolutions@asccc.org.

If you are considering an amendment, talk to the resolution contact person first, if possible.

Read session resolution packets each day!!!

Attend the Resolution and Amendments sessions on Thursday and Friday afternoon at session.

Getting Ready for Voting

Enlist the help of your local senators in a variety of disciplines by asking them to be on standby for a text, an email, or a phone call seeking advice or feedback on a resolution

If you need clarification on a resolution or amendment, ask the contact. Names and colleges are listed in the packet.

Do your best to bring the packet of resolutions released prior to the plenary to your senates at a formal meeting or electronically, depending on timing, for feedback and guidance.

Saturday is Voting Day!

Resolutions are debated and voted...anyone can debate.

Arguments are made at the pro and con mics.

- Debate continues until no one is at a mic, or until time for debate expires (15 minutes).

Parliamentary mic is for making motions, parliamentary inquiries to the chair, etc.

Votes are voice votes...only delegates vote!

- If voice vote inconclusive, division of the house is done.
- If division of the house inconclusive...serpentine vote!

Referring Resolutions

Resolutions can be referred to the Executive Committee for the following reasons:

- More information or clarity is needed,
- More time to debate the issue on local campuses is needed,
- May be worthy of consideration for adoption but is written in a manner to make it unclear as to the intent.

The maker of the motion to refer the resolution must be clear about the reason for referral and the instructions to be taken by the Executive Committee upon referral. A motion to refer must include a date by which the resolution is to be returned to the body upon completion of the referral instructions by the Executive Committee.

A resolution cannot be referred to direct the Executive Committee to accomplish what the resolution seeks to do.

A Modest Proposal

If a resolution is unclear, even with amendments, perhaps it should be voted down instead of referred.

(The author can rewrite it and bring it to the next plenary session!)

Important Senate Resources for Delegates

Senate Delegate Roles and Responsibilities:

<http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/DelRolesRespon09.pdf>

Resolutions Handbook:

http://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/ResolutionHandbookFinalFA17_0.pdf

Senate resolutions web page (searchable):

<http://asccc.org/resources/resolutions>

ASCCC Bylaws:

<http://asccc.org/about/bylaws>