BOARD POLICY ON THE SCHEDULING OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
AND THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE

As last amended by the Board of Trustees on May 27, 2003, Cal. No. 9.B.


I. Student government elections (regular) shall be held at each of the colleges beginning no earlier than March 15, and ending no later than April 30.

II. The newly elected student government(s), where such is the practice, shall elect delegates and alternate delegates to the University Student Senate no later than August 10, if possible, from the elected members of the student government. Where delegates and alternate delegates are directly elected by their student bodies, such elections shall be held in conjunction with regular student government elections. The newly elected University Student Senate delegates and alternate delegates shall have a term of office which begins September 1st and ends on August 31st and do not hold over after the expiration of their terms of office.

III. The college presidents shall certify the newly elected delegates and alternate delegates to the University Student Senate to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, with respect to procedures and eligibility criteria, no later than 10 days after the election.

IV. Elections for officers of the University Student Senate shall be held in October, at least 10 days prior to the scheduled October meeting of the Board of Trustees, for a term of office commencing on the day of the scheduled October meeting of the Board of Trustees. Officers of the USS are elected for terms of office ending on the day preceding the subsequent scheduled October meeting of the Board of Trustees, and do not hold over after the expiration of their terms of office.

V. Each community college, and senior college without a graduate division, shall have two delegates to the University-Student Senate, one a day session student and one an evening session student. Each senior college with a graduate division shall have three delegates to the University Student Senate, one day session student, one an evening session student, and one a graduate student. The Graduate School, the Law School and the [Medical School] Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education shall each have one delegate. If a college, for governance purposes, does not distinguish between day and evening students, it shall instead have [a full-time] two undergraduate student delegates [and a part-time student delegate].

VI. Each college shall also elect alternate delegates for each allowed delegate: An alternate delegate may vote in the University Student Senate and count towards a quorum only when the specific delegate for whom the person is an alternate is absent. Where a college has two undergraduate delegates, a first alternate and second alternate delegate shall be elected, to vote and count towards a quorum in that order in case one or both undergraduate delegates are not present.

VII. All officers of the University Student Senate must be elected by the delegates. Only delegates and alternate delegates may run for and be elected to an office of the University Student Senate. If a delegate or alternate delegate has been elected as an officer of the University Student Senate and subsequently resigns or otherwise ceases to be a delegate or alternate delegate, the student will simultaneously forfeit his/her office in the University
Student Senate, with the exception of the transitional period at the end of the one year term of office from September 1 until the day of the scheduled October meeting of the Board of Trustees provided that the student meets all other eligibility criteria.

VIII. A quorum of the University Student Senate shall be a majority (more than half) of the number of delegates that have been certified by the college presidents to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Only delegates or alternate delegates, when applicable, so certified, may vote at University Student Senate meetings.

IX. The election of officers of the University Student Senate shall be managed by a non-partisan agency or organization, such as the League of Women Voters or the Honest Ballot Association, approved by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the selection of the Parliamentarian for the elections shall be effected by the University Student Senate after consultation with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. The cost will be assumed by the USS and, in the event that the USS does not have sufficient funds, will be paid for by the administration.

X. In the event the office of the chair of the University Student Senate is vacated, another officer shall become interim chair to serve until a new chair is elected by the delegates. The order of succession among the vice chairs of the USS shall be: (1) legislative affairs; (2) graduate affairs; (3) senior college affairs; (4) community college affairs; (5) evening and part-time student affairs; (6) international student affairs; (7) disabled student affairs; and (8) fiscal affairs, but such succession shall occur only to the office of interim chair. The interim chair shall serve as chair for a period not to exceed 45 calendar days or the expired portion of the term, whichever is shorter. At the end of the 45 day period, if the USS has failed to elect a chair the office of the chair shall be vacant until it is filled by the vote of the body. The eligibility of the interim chair shall be subject to the certification of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

XI. In the event a student who is an officer of the University Student Senate graduates at the end of a semester, the student may continue to hold office until February 1, for the fall semester, or September 1, for the spring semester, following which date, the office shall be deemed vacated unless the student has enrolled in another degree program at the University prior to the applicable date. In addition, a student who is chair and graduates at the end of the spring semester, or thereafter but prior to the scheduled October meeting of the Board of Trustees, may continue to hold the office until the completion of the term of office ending on the day preceding the October meeting of the Board of Trustees, even if the chair does not enroll in another degree program at the University for the fall semester.

XII. Delegates and alternate delegates, from each college student body division, to the USS may be removed by a majority vote of the USS for three [consecutive] unexcused absences at regularly scheduled USS meetings at the third such meeting, subject to review and certification by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. If a quorum is not present at the regular USS meeting of the third [consecutive] unexcused absence, then removal may be by an affirmative vote of a majority of the full Steering Committee. Following each unexcused absence of both the delegate and alternate delegate for a student body division of a college, the delegate, alternate delegate, and the chief student affairs officer of the affected college shall be notified by the Chair of the USS, by regular mail, that the applicable student body division was not represented at the USS meeting and that these [consecutive] unexcused absences of the delegate or the alternate delegate may result in their removal. Where there are two undergraduate delegates from a college, this provision shall apply when there are unexcused absences for one or both of the undergraduate seats, by the notification of those delegates and alternate delegates who have unexcused absences and the chief student affairs officer of the affected college. An excused absence shall be an absence from any regularly scheduled USS meeting, for which the delegate or alternate delegate has filed five day advance written notification with the USS Chair and the chief student affairs officer of the affected college demonstrating good cause for not attending. In the case of a delegate, he or she must also notify the alternate delegate(s) that he or she will not be attending the meeting. In the event of an emergency absence that precludes five days advance written notification, written or oral notification shall be given to the USS Chair as soon as possible, and application for an excused absence based upon emergency circumstances may be made to the Steering Committee. The determination to remove a delegate may be appealed to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs within 15 days of the mailing of the determination by certified mail. The removal of a delegate pursuant to this provision shall be effective upon the expiration of the time to appeal to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or the denial of such an appeal. A delegate or alternate delegate who is removed pursuant to this provision shall be ineligible to serve as a delegate or alternate delegate for a period of one year following the effective date of removal.
EXPLANATION: These amendments to Sections V, VI, XII have been recommended by the University Student Senate, in consultation with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, in an effort to improve student participation from the colleges and the obtaining of quorum at USS meetings. The provision for two undergraduate delegates from each college without a separate evening student government (currently only two colleges have separate evening student governments), rather than a full-time and part-time delegate, will improve the chances of obtaining quorum, since either of two alternates could serve in case one of the undergraduate delegates does not show up. Currently, if the full-time delegate and the full-time alternate delegate show up, but the part-time delegate and part-time alternate delegate are not present, the college has only one of two undergraduate votes because the full-time alternate may not vote and be counted instead of the part-time delegate. This change would also improve college representation because it will avoid the disqualification of the full-time delegate or part-time delegate, and their alternates if, after their election there is a change in their full-time/part-time status. Thirdly, the proposal would allow colleges to fill both undergraduate delegate and alternate delegate positions, where there are no part-time students in student government interested in serving. The amendment to Section XII changes the requirement for removal of a delegate or alternate delegate that the three unexcused absences be consecutive.

As adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 27, 2005, Cal. No. 8.B.

RESOLVED, That the Section IV of the Board Policy on the Scheduling of Student Government Elections and the Election of Delegates and Officers of the University Student Senate be amended as follows:

IV. Elections for officers of the University Student Senate shall be held in October, at least 10 days prior to the scheduled October meeting of the Board of Trustees, for a term of office commencing on the day of the scheduled October meeting of the Board of Trustees. Officers of the USS are elected for terms of office ending on the day preceding the subsequent scheduled October meeting of the Board of Trustees, and do not hold over after the expiration of their terms of office. In the event there is no scheduled October meeting of the Board of Trustees, elections for officers shall be held at least 10 days prior to the fourth Monday in October, for a term of office commencing on the fourth Monday in October.

EXPLANATION: Since there is no October meeting of the Board scheduled for 2005, it is necessary to provide an alternative date for the commencement of the terms of USS officers. The fourth Monday in October has been chosen, since that has been the traditional date of previous October Board meetings.