



CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
FRESNO

Memorandum

March 23, 2018

To: Dr. Thomas Holyoke, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Joseph I. Castro, Ph.D., M.P.P.
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe I. Castro".

Subject: Changes to the University Constitution

I write to approve the changes to the University Constitution as approved by the Academic Assembly and forwarded to me on March 20, 2018.

JIC:jsb

cc: Lynnett Zelezny, Provost
Bradley Hart, Vice Chair
Diana Ralls, Chief of Staff to the President
Venita Baker, Academic Senate Office

Office of the President

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Here is a summary of the changes the Academic Senate is proposing:


- Clarifies the full scope of the APM's authority (page 3)
- Requires candidates for Chair and Vice Chair of the Academic Assembly / Senate to gather signatures from at least two colleges / schools (page 3)
- Extends terms of Chair and Vice Chair from one year to two years (page 3)
- Provides for the replacement of the Chair or Vice Chair if they leave those positions before their terms are over (page 3)
- New procedures for the forced removal of the Chair or Vice Chair and how to replace them (pages 3-4)
- Clarifies who is a voting and non-voting ex-officio member of the Academic Senate (page 5)
- Defines the responsibility of the Vice Chair (to conform with existing practice, pages 6-7)
- Requires the chairs of the senate standing committees to file reports at the end of the year summarizing what they accomplished that year (page 11)
- Procedure for addressing continued absences of senators from meetings (page 13)
- Requires all senators, committee and sub-committee members to resign those positions when they take sabbatical, difference of pay leaves, or any other extended leave of absence (page 13)



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March 20, 2018

TO: Dr. Joseph Castro
University President

FROM: Dr. Thomas Holyoke 
Chair of the Academic Senate

RE: Changes to the University Constitution

On March 19, 2018, I reported to the Academic Senate that proposed changes to the University Constitution were approved by a vote of the Academic Assembly of 91.2% in favor and 8.8% opposed. Not only do our rules require two-thirds of the members of the Assembly voting to approve the changes, which we have achieved, but these changes must also be approved by the President of the University. Attached to this memo is the University Constitution with the changes marked in red, along with a summary of the changes.

One part of these proposed changes is time sensitive, and that involves the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Academic Assembly / Senate. Under the proposed framework, the Chair and Vice Chair would serve two-year terms rather than one. They would also have to gather signatures from faculty in at least three colleges rather than one to qualify for the ballot. In order to apply these changes to the Assembly / Senate leadership for next year, you would need to approve this amended University Constitution by mid-April. Otherwise we would likely go ahead with our leadership elections under the current system with one-year terms.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please let me know and I will try to address them. Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Lynnette Zelezny, Provost
Bradley Hart, Vice Chair
Diana Ralls, Chief of Staff to the President
Venita Baker, Academic Senate Office

Office of the
Academic Senate

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THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY