

So You Say You Want a Resolution...



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Why Does the Academic Senate Use Resolutions?

Our Constitution Requires It!

From the ASCCC Constitution...

Powers and Duties:

The power of the Academic Senate is derived from Title 5 and implemented through its resolution process. This resolution process shall be the sole method by which policies of the Academic Senate are adopted.

Resolutions are the Official Vehicle for Senate Actions

- **Resolutions are the official Senate vehicle for:**
 - Establishing statewide positions on matters of concern related to academic and professional matters
 - Directing the work of the Academic Senate through its committees and task forces
 - Adopting position papers, Senate resources and revisions to the disciplines list
 - Granting Senator Emeritus status 😊
- **Academic Senate positions inform discussions with the Board of Governors, Chancellor's Office and system partners**
- **Academic Senate positions can inform the work of your local senates**

Writing Academic Senate Resolutions

- **Identify a relevant topic:**
 - Through local senates
 - Through Academic Senate committees
 - Through Academic Senate area meetings
 - As an individual (you don't have to be a delegate!)
 - In the cocktail lounge during a plenary session (don't laugh!)

Writing Academic Senate Resolutions

- **Consider feasibility and appropriateness:**
 - If it gives the organization direction (writing a new paper, conducting a study, etc.), can the work be done in a timely manner?
 - If it takes a position, will it reflect well on the organization if it passes?

Is This Resolution Really Feasible?

From Resolution 9.07 S13:

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) to conduct a study of course unit loads for high-unit majors across all segments of California higher education to determine at a minimum:

- What changes, if any, over time there have been in the units awarded for required courses in high-unit majors;
- The degree of present inconsistency in units awarded for courses required for high-unit majors at different CCC, CSU and UC campuses;
- The impacts of any changes and inconsistencies in units awarded on the course requirements for local AA/AS degrees as well as AA-T/AS-T degrees;
- The impacts on degree completion for students in high-unit majors at the community colleges and following transfer to a CSU or UC as a result of any changes and inconsistencies in units awarded;

and report the results of this study to the body by fall 2014.

Contact: John Freitas, Los Angeles City College (from Spring 2013)

Writing Academic Senate Resolutions

- **Do your homework!**

- Current events, looming policy changes, educational and political trends

- Research past Senate resolutions and papers

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

<http://asccc.org/publications/academic-senate-papers>

- Note: Senate positions are also established when the body approves position papers.

- Research Ed Code and Title 5

<http://oal.ca.gov>

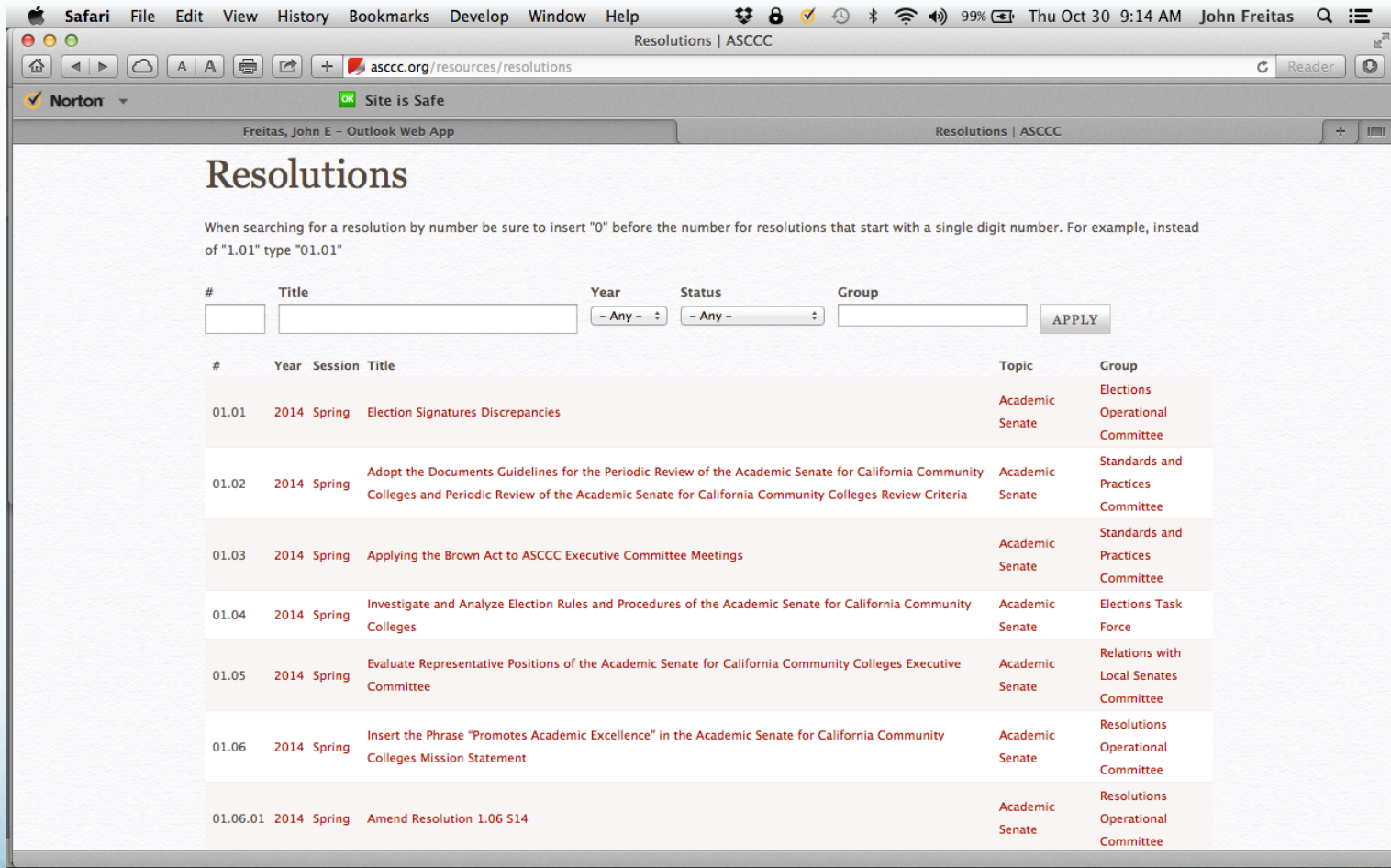
- And don't forget to cite your sources!

Writing Academic Senate Resolutions

- **Make them clear!**
- **Limit of four whereas and four resolved statements**
- **Resolved statements describe the actions/positions proposed**
 - Tip: write the resolved statement(s) first.
- **Whereas statements are important**
 - Delineate the arguments in support of the resolved statements
 - If adopted by the body, whereas statements become the official supporting arguments of the Academic Senate, so they need to be logical and accurate!

Resolutions on the ASCCC Website

Great tools allow you to search by subject, author, specific resolution number, etc.



The screenshot shows a Safari browser window displaying the ASCCC Resolutions page. The browser's address bar shows the URL asccc.org/resources/resolutions. The page title is "Resolutions | ASCCC". Below the title, there is a search instruction: "When searching for a resolution by number be sure to insert '0' before the number for resolutions that start with a single digit number. For example, instead of '1.01' type '01.01'". Below this instruction is a search form with fields for "#", "Title", "Year", "Status", and "Group", and an "APPLY" button. Below the search form is a table of resolutions.

#	Year	Session	Title	Topic	Group
01.01	2014	Spring	Election Signatures Discrepancies	Academic Senate	Elections Operational Committee
01.02	2014	Spring	Adopt the Documents Guidelines for the Periodic Review of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and Periodic Review of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Review Criteria	Academic Senate	Standards and Practices Committee
01.03	2014	Spring	Applying the Brown Act to ASCCC Executive Committee Meetings	Academic Senate	Standards and Practices Committee
01.04	2014	Spring	Investigate and Analyze Election Rules and Procedures of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges	Academic Senate	Elections Task Force
01.05	2014	Spring	Evaluate Representative Positions of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Executive Committee	Academic Senate	Relations with Local Senates Committee
01.06	2014	Spring	Insert the Phrase "Promotes Academic Excellence" in the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Mission Statement	Academic Senate	Resolutions Operational Committee
01.06.01	2014	Spring	Amend Resolution 1.06 S14	Academic Senate	Resolutions Operational Committee

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

Resolutions and Amendments at Session

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

- Resolutions due by the end of the Resolutions Writing Session on **Thursday afternoon (4:15 – 5:00)**.
- Amendments due by **Friday, 4:00...period!**
- 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 amendments discussion session on Friday...must be voted on by the body on Saturday

Resolutions and Amendments at Session

- **Requires 4 seconds signed by delegates!!!**
- **Electronic copy requested, but you still must submit resolutions form along with hard copy with:**
 - Your signature
 - Your seconds' signatures
 - Resolution/Amendment title
 - Resolution/Amendment body (if no electronic file exists)
 - Session contact information...cell phone preferred!

Resolutions Consent Calendar

- **Resolutions are placed on the consent calendar by the Resolutions Committee if:**
 - 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 before voting begins at 8:30 AM on Saturday
 - When the resolutions voting session begins at 8:30 AM on Saturday before the Consent Calendar is adopted. The President will ask one last time if anyone wants to remove any resolutions from consent.

How Does the Resolutions Process Work?

- **Resolutions can come from a variety of sources:**
 - Executive Committee
 - ASCCC Standing or Ad Hoc Committees or Taskforces
 - Area meetings prior to Plenary Session
 - Local Senates
 - Individuals
 - Inspiration from Plenary breakout sessions

****All resolutions, other than urgent resolutions, must be submitted by the Thursday afternoon of Plenary to be considered by the body.**

Process (continued)

- **Resolutions and amendments are reviewed by the Resolutions Committee to ensure that they:**
 - Are not duplicative
 - Do not reverse a position previously taken by the ASCCC (unless that is the intent)
 - Are properly moved and seconded
 - Are in order
 - Make sense

Process (continued more...)

- Resolutions are discussed by delegates at the pre-plenary Area meetings, by local senates on home campuses, and at the session Area meetings.
- Amendments can be added to clarify resolutions (requires four seconds by registered delegates!)
- When the Saturday of plenary session rolls around, it is time for debate...

Okay, It's Not QUITE This
Bad...



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!

Saturday is Voting Day!

- **The body debates the resolutions and votes on them**
 - It is possible for the body to refer the resolution to the Executive Committee for perfection, research, or other actions.
 - It is possible to divide resolutions
 - Resolutions which change an existing position require a 2/3rd majority.
 - Amendments are not taken from the floor.

Referring Resolutions



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 must be clear about:**
 - Reason for referral
 - Instructions for addressing the referral
 - The date to return to the body.
- **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!)

“I Move to Divide”



Dividing Resolutions

- **Motion made at the parliamentary mic to consider parts of a resolution as separate motions**
- **Requires second and majority vote**
- **If motion to divide passes, each resulting part is debated and voted on separately**
- **Reasons for dividing motions include:**
 - To consider proposed positions/actions between or within resolved statements separately
 - To remove whereas statements that may be incorrect, unsubstantiated or do not support the resolved statements

For Example...

+12.02.01 S14 Amend Resolution 12.02 S14 (only part of the amendment is shown)

Amend first whereas:

Whereas, The primary basis for faculty hiring is subject matter expertise and meeting the minimum qualifications outlined in Title 5 ~~and in Minimum Qualifications for Faculty and Administrators in Community Colleges (January 2012);~~

Amend second whereas:

Whereas, The California Community College faculty minimum qualifications do not include requirements for andragogy ~~pedagogical~~ knowledge or teacher preparation; etc....

- **The first whereas was divided from the rest of the amendment and voted down. Why?**
- **The proposed amendment to the first whereas is factually incorrect. The body recognized that, divided the motion and voted down the amendment to the first whereas.**

One of These Things is Not Like the Other...

This resolution wasn't divided. Should it have been? (Only the resolveds are shown)

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges expand the potential scope of SB1440/SB440 implementation effort review to include matters such as proposing amended or new legislation and new training of and directions to C-ID reviewers;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges make philosophical and practical SB1440/ SB 440 issues a major focus of the Spring 2014 Plenary Session; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges survey appropriate stakeholders in preparation for general and breakout sessions at the Spring 2014 Session.

(Note: The entire resolution was voted down by the body.)

This Resolution Was Divided...Why?

6.04 S12 Tiered Fees in the California Community Colleges

Whereas, ...

(3rd) Whereas, Santa Monica College's recent announcement of its intention to establish a two-tiered system of fees for regular course offerings, including courses in English, math, and sciences, is an unprecedented action in violation of the California community college mission and may be in violation of Title 5 and would force students seeking enrollment in impacted courses to pay \$180 per semester unit, an amount nearly three times higher than the state-established community college fees of \$46 per semester unit, thereby creating a slippery slope towards possible consequences that would take state resources away from regular course offerings; and...

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges strongly oppose any attempt, such as that undertaken by Santa Monica College, to establish extension courses that would create a two-tiered system of fees and would deny access to in-state students who do not have the ability to pay; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges reaffirm its opposition to any bill that attempts to establish a two-tiered system, including the current Senate Bill 1550 (Wright, as of 30 March 2012).

- **The third whereas and first resolved were divided from the rest of the resolution and voted down because it criticized a specific college and by extension our colleagues**
- **In fact, given our previous oppose position to two-tiered fees, this resolution was not necessary**

After Plenary: What Happens Next?

- **Resolutions Committee prepares the adopted resolutions packet**
 - Renumbers resolutions (passed, referred, failed, moot)
 - President reviews and then Executive Director distributes to the field
- **Disposition depends on what the resolution calls for:**
 - Action by the president is taken directly by the ASCCC president
 - Other resolutions are given to committees or task forces for completion, which is then reported at the bottom of the resolution on the website
 - Some resolutions are deemed infeasible due to lack of resources or other issues

Coming Soon...

The Resolutions Handbook!

- Under consideration for approval by the body on Saturday
- Single publicly available document
- Compilation of all the existing internal and external resolutions process documents
- Draft is available for review at

[http://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/Appendix
%20A%20Resolution%20Handbook_0.pdf](http://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/Appendix%20A%20Resolution%20Handbook_0.pdf)

Resources

- **Your 2014-2015 Resolutions Committee:** John Freitas(chair), Julie Adams, Kale Braden, Randy Beach, Debbie Klein and Michelle Sampat.
- **Your area representatives:** James Todd, Area A; Dolores Davison, Area B; John Freitas, Area C; and Cynthia Rico, Area D.
- Plenary Session Procedures Packet found at http://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/Session_Packet_F14_revision.pdf
- <http://asccc.org/resources/resolutions>
 - All adopted Senate resolutions are posted here. Check this first before writing resolutions!

If You Come to Enjoy the Resolutions Process
As We Have, You Might Need One of These:



Questions?



Thank You!