

**SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY
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**SM-F25-1, SENATE MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION
Amendment to Senate Standing Rules #14 - Ranked Choice
Voting to Replace Run-off Election for Senate Officers**

Legislative History:

On September 29, 2025, the Academic Senate approved Senate Management Resolution SM-F25-1, Amendment to Senate Standing Rules #14 - Ranked Choice Voting to Replace Run-off Election for Senate Officers, presented by Senator Baur for the Organization and Government Committee.

Rationale

Whereas: Currently, the SJSU Academic Senate employs a process of run-off elections in cases where there are more than two nominees for a Senate office, and

Whereas: Run-off elections for a Senate office are cumbersome and time consuming, and

Whereas: The SJSU Academic Senate full plenary sessions commonly have full agendas such that time is limited necessitating efficient use of available time, and

Whereas: Given the limited time the Senate has to complete Senate business, run-off elections for senate offices consume scarce time that could be profitably utilized for other matters, and

Whereas: Ranked choice voting (RCV) — also known as instant runoff voting (IRV) — improves election efficiency by allowing senators to rank candidates in order of preference on a single ballot, and

Whereas: RCV is straightforward. Senators have the option to rank candidates in order of preference: first, second, third and so forth. If a first choice doesn't have a chance to win, one's ballot counts for the next choice.

RESOLVED that Section 14. of the SJSU Academic Senate Standing rules be amended to require ranked choice voting in cases where more than two nominees are competing for a senate office.

Senate Management Resolution

Recommended Amendment to the Standing Rules of the SJSU Academic Senate

SJSU Senate Standing Rules

New Section 14. to reflect Ranked Choice Voting

14. In elections for Senate officers, if there are more than two nominees for an office, then selection will occur using a ranked-choice vote. If a nominee wins a majority of first-preference votes, he or she is declared the winner. If no nominee wins a majority of first-preference votes, the nominee with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated. Ballots ranking a failed nominee as their first, or highest choice, depending on the round, are then reevaluated and counted as first-preference ballots for the next highest ranked nominees in that round. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any nominee has won a majority of ballots. The process is repeated until a nominee wins an outright majority.

Approved: August 25, 2025

Vote: 8-0-0

Present: Baur, Hackman, Ionescu, Jochim, Kataoka, Porter-Parees, Pruthi, Siebert

Absent: Chander, Charles, Munoz-Munoz, Saleh

Financial impact:

There are no foreseeable financial impacts from this proposed amendment.

Workload impact:

The members of the O&G committee estimate that conversion to ranked-choice voting will reduce workload for SJSU Academic Senate staff and administrators.