

STANFORD
UNIVERSITY



MARC TESSIER-LAVIGNE
President

May 22, 2018

Shanta Katipamula
President, Associated Students of Stanford University
Old Union
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Shanta,

I write in response to your April 30, 2018 email in which you requested approval of a Spring 2013 Constitutional Amendment to Article II, Section 3A.

The original ASSU Constitution, Article II, Section 3A, reads as follows:

“Section 3. Undergraduate Senate. Organization and Procedures, 3A
Election of the Undergraduate Senate

1. The fifteen members of the Undergraduate Senate shall be elected from and shall represent the undergraduate population.
2. Each member of the undergraduate population voting may cast one vote for as many Undergraduate Senate seats as are assigned to the undergraduate population.
3. The candidates equal in number to the number of available Undergraduate Senate seats who receive the largest number of votes shall become members of the Undergraduate Senate.
4. If at any time more than one-third of the Undergraduate Senate seats are vacant, the Undergraduate Senate shall immediately call a special election to fill all vacant seats.”

The amended Article II, Section 3A reads as follows:

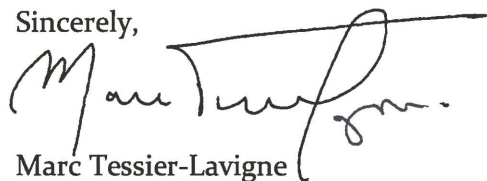
“Section 3. Undergraduate Senate. Organization and Procedures, A. Election of the Undergraduate Senate

1. The fifteen members of the Undergraduate Senate shall be elected from and shall represent the undergraduate population.
2. Each member of the undergraduate population voting may cast one vote for as many Undergraduate Senate seats as are assigned to the undergraduate population.
3. The upper-class candidates who receive the highest number of votes among all upper-class candidates shall become members of the Undergraduate Senate.

- a) This section shall only apply to Undergraduate Senate elections in which all fifteen seats are available for election.
 - b) An upper-class candidate is a candidate who anticipates holding academic status as an Undergraduate Junior or higher, as defined by the University Registrar, at the beginning of Fall Quarter of the year of the majority of his/her term. In case of dispute, decisions regarding whether a candidate is an upper-class candidate shall be made by the Elections Commission.
 - c) In order to be elected under this section, upper-class candidates must have petitioned for the required amount of signatures as set by the Elections Commission.
 - d) The number of upper-class candidates elected under this section shall be defined in the Undergraduate Senate By-Laws. The resolution of ties shall also be set in the Undergraduate Senate By-Laws.
 - e) Any upper-class candidates who are not elected under this section may be elected under Section 4.
- 4. After the upper-class candidates have been seated, all remaining available seats shall be filled by the remaining candidates who receive the largest number of votes, up to the maximum fifteen members.
 - 5. If at any time more than one-third of the Undergraduate Senate seats are vacant, the Undergraduate Senate shall immediately call a special election to fill all vacant seats.”

As you are aware, there was a previous concern that, because the Amendment does not provide any cap to the number of upper-class Senate seats available, under-class candidates could effectively be shut out of the Senate by upper-class candidates receiving fewer votes. The ASSU has cured this concern by explaining that Undergraduate Senate Bylaw Article II, Section 1A, Number 3 limits the number of seats reserved for upper-class candidates under the Spring 2013 Constitutional Amendment to Article II, Section 3A to three upper-class members. Subject to this Bylaw remaining in effect, I accept this Constitutional Amendment on behalf of the Board of Trustees. In the event, the ASSU in the future considers modification or revocation of this Bylaw, the ASSU leadership should contact my office in advance to determine whether this conditional acceptance of the Constitutional Amendment will remain in effect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Tessier-Lavigne", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Marc Tessier-Lavigne