

**SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSÉ, CA 95192**

**S26-8, University Policy, Modification of the Bylaws of the
Academic Senate, San Jose State University, Related to
Powers and Responsibilities (Timely Responses to Senate
Policy Recommendations)**

Legislative History:

On March 16, 2026, the Academic Senate approved University Policy, Modification of the Bylaws of the Academic Senate, San Jose State University, Related to Powers and Responsibilities (Timely Responses to Senate Policy Recommendations), presented by Senator Siebert for the Organization and Government Committee. On April 22, 2025, the electorate of San Jose State University approved the constitutional amendment (206.2-1-1).

Action by University President:

Date: April 27, 2026

Signed and approved by: 

**Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President,
San José State University**

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RATIONALE

At the [January 2023 plenary of the Academic Senate of the California State University \(ASCSU\)](#), policy AS-3584-22/FA “Establishing Timely Responses to Campus Senate Resolutions and Policies” was presented for a second reading and subsequently approved (i.e. passed) by that body.

The intention of AS-3584-22/FA, as stated in its preamble, is to “recognize and reaffirm the rights and responsibilities of CSU faculty via their campus senates;” improve faculty “cooperation with the campus administration;” and ensure “timely communication from the President regarding resolutions and policies passed by the campus senate.”

Specifically, AS-3584-22/FA calls on all senates of the CSU to clarify the processes by which resolutions and policies passed by those senates are handled once they have been sent on for presidential review. To this end, AS-3584-22/FA recommends that,

“where a presidential signature is required on resolutions or policies, to establish within [the senate’s] constitution or bylaws, *a timely deadline not to exceed sixty calendar days* for presidential responses to curricular and academic policy related resolutions and policies passed by the campus senate, beyond which deadline such legislative resolutions and policies shall be considered enacted and in force;” and that

“each campus senate [should] require all presidential vetoes to include a rationale that is reported to the Senate and accessible to the campus community.”

Considering this, and given that the Constitution of SJSU’s Academic Senate is not sufficiently clear on these points, the Organization and Government Committee therefore recommends that in addition to an amendment to the Academic Senate Constitution, that additionally the Senate By-laws be amended as follows:

7.0 Approval of Policies

7.1 Measures adopted by the Academic Senate intended to have binding effect on the university generally or on persons or matters external to the Senate itself are policy recommendations and are submitted to the President for approval under Article IV, Section 2, of the Senate constitution.

7.1.1 If after 30 working days following receipt the President has taken no action on a policy recommendation, the status of the policy's approval will be reviewed at the next Senate Executive Committee Meeting.

7.2 By-laws adopted in accordance with standing rule 10.a.2 (Senate Management Resolutions) or resolutions expressing only the opinion of the Senate, are not policy recommendations and do not require approval of the President.

Approved: March 2 , 2026

Vote: 13-0-1 (yay, nay, abstain)

Present: Baur, Chander, Charles, Elahi, Hackman, Ionescu, Jochim, Kataoka, Munoz-Munoz, Porter-Parees, Pruthi, Saleh, Siebert

Absent: None

Financial impact: None anticipated

Workload impact: The changes proposed here require that presidential vetoes and/or requests for changes be accompanied by an explanation within the given deadline. This will disambiguate expectations and formalize processes that are already being followed, albeit in an informal manner. For these reasons, no significant impact to workload is anticipated.