

Introduced to Senate Floor on November 21, 2019.



ASUCD CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #63

Authored by: HURST

Introduced by: Internal Affairs Commission

Recommended by: Internal Affairs Commission.

Do Pass as Amended, 5-0-2 on
November 19, 2019. Yes: Barneond,
Cooney, Chheda, Lo, Tan. Abstain:
Garcia, Kulkarni.

A Constitutional Amendment to shift the Winter ASUCD Elections to Spring Quarter.

Section 1. The ASUCD Senate hereby places the following Constitutional Amendment of the Fall 2019 Special Ballot:

Elections Timing Amendment

_____ Yes, I approve of the Elections Timing Amendment

_____ No, I do not approve of the Elections Timing Amendment

BACKGROUND: ASUCD currently has two (2) general elections—in the seventh (7th) weeks of Fall and Winter Quarters. The Winter election is also when Executive Office positions are elected. This Constitutional Amendment seeks to shift the Winter ASUCD Elections to the Spring Quarter.

Having elections in Winter Quarter (henceforth referred to as “Winter”) makes less sense than it would to hold elections in Spring Quarter (henceforth referred to as “Spring”) for the following reasons: it’s harder to campaign with poor weather conditions, there is less time to prepare for the budget process after being elected (especially the executive team), Winter is considered extremely early compared to the elections of other UCs, and there is potential voter fatigue from having elections in consecutive quarters.

This year especially, the ASUCD President has noticed in their position the shortcomings of having the elections in Winter. They had only a few weeks to learn the ins and outs of our over fifteen million (15,000,000) dollar budget and was forced to cut an excess of five hundred thousand (500,000) dollars within a short turnaround time. The ASUCD Controller had even less time to prepare and learn the budget, as they were not able to be hired until budget hearings were less than a month away. While things may have worked out this time, it seems irresponsible to force future executive teams into the same position.

At the UC level, the other Undergraduate Associated Students (AS's) have their elections later in the Spring and Davis is the oddball, creating a position wherein ASUCD is not as cohesive with the other AS's.

Spacing out elections might increase voter turnout and therefore lead to a more representative elected body within ASUCD. Disinterest in student government elections has been a chronic issue for ASUCD, and this is an attempt to decrease any potential voter fatigue caused by having two elections in quick succession during the year.

Under this change, recently elected ASUCD officials would still have the opportunity to experience budget hearings as members of the public without having to organize them, and would still have the opportunity to amend the final budget come its approval in the Fall Quarter.

In order to prevent a potential Constitutional crisis, the addition of subsection (1)(d) in this Constitutional Amendment addresses concerns related to 1-year terms and the potential necessity of special elections in Winter.

Section 1. The ASUCD Senate hereby amends Article III Section 7 (5) of the ASUCD Constitution as follows:

(5) The ASUCD Student Advocate shall be elected annually during a general election conducted during the seventh week (7th) of ~~Winter-Spring~~ Quarter. The Student Advocate election shall be conducted using an Instant Runoff Voting system. The method of voting and counting shall be described in the ASUCD Elections Regulations. To permit an independent count of the ballots, the rankings cast shall be made available to the public upon request. The eligible candidates for the ASUCD Student Advocate receiving a simple majority of the votes cast for their offices in any round of the instant runoff shall be issued a Certificates of Election from the outgoing Vice President at the beginning of the final Senate meeting of ~~Winter-Spring~~ Quarter. Upon receipt of the Certificates of Election, the newly-elected ASUCD Student Advocate shall immediately assume office.

Section 2. The ASUCD Senate hereby amends Article V Section 1 (1) of the ASUCD Constitution as follows:

(1) There shall be two (2) ASUCD General Elections held during each academic calendar year, held during the seventh (7th) week of Fall Quarter and the seventh (7th) week of ~~Winter-Spring~~ Quarter respectively.

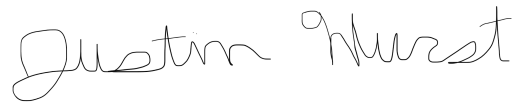
- (a) Six (6) Senate seats shall be filled during each General Election using the electoral system of Single Transferable Voting, also known as Choice Voting.
- (b) The Executive Cabinet shall be filled during the ~~Winter-Spring~~ Quarter General Election using the electoral system of Instant Runoff Voting. The President and Internal Vice President shall be grouped together for purposes of voting, while the External Affairs Vice President shall be elected independently.
- (c) The office of Student Advocate shall be filled during the ~~Winter-Spring~~ Quarter General Election using the electoral process of Instant Runoff Voting.
- (d) In order to prevent the necessity for ASUCD to hold a special election every Winter Quarter and prevent a violation of Article II Section 1 of the ASUCD Constitution that mandates one (1) year terms for every elected official,, the candidates that were elected in the Winter 2019 elections shall automatically have their terms of office extended to Spring 2020. Article V Section 1 (1)(d) of the ASUCD Constitution shall be removed by the Student Government Administrative Office from the Constitution after Spring 2020.

Finance: No

Appropriation: None

Vote: Majority

DO PASS AS AMENDED, 11-0-1, BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF THE ASUCD SENATE ON NOVEMBER 21, 2019. YES: BARAK, CHEN, CHOI, ESTRADA, KAUR, KUMAR, LANDRUM, RODRIGUEZ, RUIZ, SANCHEZ, SPINOGLIO. ABSTAIN: SCHMEDEL.



Justin Hurst
ASUCD President

11/29/19
Date