Background statement: Complications with elections arise due to a requirement for a majority vote. There have been situations where elections resulted in no majority vote even after several runoff elections. A majority vote consists of more than half of the ballots cast.

WHEREAS, the requirement of a majority vote results in complications with the election process, and

WHEREAS, a majority requires more than half of the votes cast, and

WHEREAS, runoff elections may result in no majority vote being achieved by anyone candidate, and

WHEREAS, Robert's Rules of Preferential Voting eliminates the need for runoff elections; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That Article VII.I.5.b.(1).e) and (f) read as follows:

(e) Declare elected those candidates who receive from a majority of those voting in any election, the highest number of votes according to Robert's Rules of Preferential Voting.

(f) Hold runoff elections in instances where a complete slate of persons is not elected by majority vote. When runoff elections are necessary, the number of candidates placed on the runoff ballot shall be twice as many as the number of persons to be elected, provided there are that many candidates who were not previously elected by majority vote. Ensure departmental representation has precedence in elections according to Article II.C.3 of the Bylaws of the Academic Senate.

Proposed By:
The Academic Senate Constitution and Bylaws Committee
September 29, 1992
the ballot should be sent to the voter with the ballot, addition to the self-addressed outer return envelope e-scrib above. The ballot sent to the voter should be pre-folded sufficient number of times so that when turned marked a refolded in the same manner and sealed in the inner envelope there will be no chance of a identical observance of th member’s vote by the teller who removes the ballot from the inner envelope. The person designated as addressee for th returned ballots should hold them in the outer envelopes delivery, unopened, at the meeting of the tellers where th votes are to be counted. At that meeting all inner envelopes are first removed from the outer envelopes. In the procedure by which the tellers remove the ballots from the other envelopes, each envelope and ballot is handled in the following manner: (1) the signature on the envelope is checked against the list of qualified voters; (2) the voter’s name is checked off the list as having voted; and (3) the envelope is opened and the ballot is removed and placed, still folded, into a receptacle. When all inner envelopes have thus been processed, the ballots are taken from the receptacle and the votes are counted. In order to ensure the accuracy and the secrecy of such handling, special care should be taken in all phases of handling the ballots. The chairman of the tellers or other responsible must be able to certify the results from both of these standpoints.

Preferential voting. The term preferential voting refers to any of a number of voting methods by which, on a single ballot when there are more than two possible choices, the second or less-preferred choices of the voters can be taken into account if no candidate or proposition attains a majority. While it is more complicated than other methods of voting in common use and is not a substitute for the normal procedure of repeated balloting until a majority is obtained, preferential voting is especially useful and fair in an election by mail if it is impractical to take more than one ballot.

In such cases it makes possible a more representative result than under a rule that a plurality shall elect. It can be used only if expressly authorized in the bylaws.

Preferential voting has many variations. One method is described here by way of illustration. On the preferential ballot — for each office to be filled or multiple-choice question to be decided — the voter is asked to indicate the order in which he prefers the candidates or propositions, placing the numeral 1 beside his first preference, the numeral 2 beside his second preference, and so on for every possible choice. In counting the votes for a given office or question, the ballots are arranged in piles according to the indicated first preferences — one pile for each candidate or proposition. The number of ballots in each pile is then recorded for the tellers’ report. These piles remain identified with the names of the same candidates or propositions throughout the counting procedure until all but one are eliminated as described below. If more than half of the ballots show one candidate or proposition indicated as first choice, that choice has a majority in the ordinary sense and the candidate is elected or the proposition is decided upon. But if there is no such majority, candidates or propositions are eliminated one by one, beginning with the least popular, until one prevails, as follows: The ballots in the thinnest pile—that is, those containing the name designated as first choice by the fewest number of voters—are redistributed into the other piles according to the names marked as second choice on these ballots. The number of ballots in each remaining pile after this distribution is again recorded. If more than half of the ballots are now in one pile, that candidate or proposition is elected or decided upon. If not, the next least popular candidate or proposition is similarly eliminated, by taking the thinnest remaining pile and redistributing its ballots according to their second choices into the other piles, except that, if the name eliminated in the last distribution is indicated as second choice on a ballot, that ballot is placed...
VOTING PROCEDURE

according to its third choice. Again the number of ballots in each existing pile is recorded and, if necessary, the process is repeated by redistributing each time the ballots in the thinnest remaining pile, according to the marked second choice or most-preferred choice among those not yet eliminated—until one pile contains more than half of the ballots, the result being thereby determined. The tellers’ report consists of a table listing all candidates or propositions, with the number of ballots that were in each pile after each successive distribution.

If a ballot having one or more names not marked with any numeral comes up for placement at any stage of the counting and all of its marked names have been eliminated, it should not be placed in any pile, but should be set aside. If at any point two or more candidates or propositions are tied for the least popular position, the ballots in their piles are redistributed in a single step, all of the tied names being treated as eliminated. In the event of a tie in the winning position—which would imply that the elimination process is continued until the ballots are reduced to two or more equal piles—the election should be resolved in favor of the candidate or proposition that was strongest in terms of first choices (by referring to the record of the first distribution).

If more than one person is to be elected to the same type of office—for example, if three members of a board are to be chosen—the voters can indicate their order of preference among the names in a single list of candidates, just as if only one was to be elected. The counting procedure is the same as described above, except that it is continued until all but the necessary number of candidates have been eliminated (that is, in the example, all but three).

When this or any other system of preferential voting is to be used, the voting and counting procedure must be precisely established in advance and should be prescribed in detail in the bylaws of the organization. The members must be thoroughly instructed as to how to mark the ballot, and should have sufficient understanding of the counting process to enable them to have confidence in the method. The persons selected as tellers must perform their work with particular care.

"The system of preferential voting just described should not be used in cases where it is possible to follow the normal procedure of repeated balloting until one candidate or proposition attains a majority. Although this type of preferential ballot is preferable to an election by plurality, it affords less freedom of choice than repeated balloting, because it denies voters the opportunity of basing their second or lesser choices on the results of earlier ballots, and because the candidate or proposition in last place is automatically eliminated and may thus be prevented from becoming a compromise choice.

Proxy voting. A proxy is a power of attorney given one person to another to vote in his stead; the term also designates the person who holds the power of attorney. Proxy voting is not permitted in ordinary deliberative assemblies unless the laws of the state in which the society is incorporated require it, or the charter or bylaws of the organization provide for it. Ordinarily it should neither be allowed nor required, because voting by proxy is incompatible with the essential character of a deliberative assembly in which membership is dual, personal, and non-transferable. In a stock corporation, on the other hand, where membership is transferable, the voice and vote of the member also is transferable, by use of a proxy. But in a non-stock corporation, where membership usually on the same basis as in an unincorporated voluntary association, voting by proxy should not be permitted unless the state’s corporation law—as applying to non-stock corporations—absolutely requires it.
MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 1993

To: Warren J. Baker
President

From: Jack D. Wilson, Chair
Academic Senate

Subject: Academic Senate Proceedings, January 26, 1993

Enclosed for your consideration and approval are two resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate at its meetings of January 26, 1993.

AS-397-93jPPC RESOLUTION ON PROMOTION ELIGIBILITY
AS-398-93 RESOLUTION ON DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE FOR ANIMAL SCIENCES AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

Submitted for your information only:
AS-399-93jC&BC RESOLUTION ON MAJORITY VOTE

Enclosures