

Section 13: Letter Accepting Spring 2007 Amendments

March 10, 2008

Hershey Avula, President
Associated Students of Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Hershey,

I write in response to the ASSU request for approval of its Spring 2007 Constitutional Amendments, as submitted to the University on August 14, 2007. As you know, the review and final approval of the Constitutional Amendments took longer than usual this year due to a few delays in the process and the need for discussion between Student Affairs staff and ASSU leadership. At this point, I am pleased to approve the 2007 Constitutional Amendments with the following interpretations and qualifications.

Interpretations and Conditions

1. As per your suggestion, the language in Article III, Section 3, Number 4 shall be modified to provide greater clarity. It shall now read: "Should no slate of candidates receive a majority of the votes in the Association Spring Quarter General Election, the winner will be decided by the standard "Instant Runoff Voting" procedure.
2. As per your suggestion, the language in Article III, Section 3, Number 7 shall be modified to provide greater clarity. It shall now read: "The President and/or Vice President of the Association may be removed by a four-fifths vote of each Association legislative body."
3. The change proposed in Article V, Section 6, B5 that includes the insertion of "that portion" is rejected and the language shall remain as it has existed for many years as follows: "Upon approval by the Association legislative bodies, but in any case no later than the beginning of the new fiscal year, the Financial Manager shall submit the operating budget approved by the Association legislative bodies, or the previous year's budget if no new budget has been approved, to the President of the University or designee. Within 14 days after the receipt of this budget, the President or designee shall either approve the Operating Budget, or shall return it to the Association legislative bodies with a statement of the modifications necessary for it to be approved. Any adjustments to that part of the operating budget funded by the Operating Budget Allowance shall require the approval of the President of the University or designee."

I support the existing language regarding ASSU's budget because I believe it is important to ensure the University's long-standing interest in maintaining a good understanding of ASSU's financial position and its annual operating budgets. In this regard I reaffirm the sentiment found in Gerhard Casper's October 1, 1999 letter of acceptance that states the University's responsibility to not "abdicate its responsibilities under the Founding Grant by ceding management and control in the area of student affairs."

In conclusion, I approve the Constitutional Amendments as passed in the ASSU Spring 2007 Election, with the interpretations and conditions contained in this letter.

I wish you and the Association well in implementing these changes and thank you for the Association's contributions to student life at Stanford.

Sincerely
John L. Hennessy