Resolution To Amend the ASSU Constitution to Create Upperclass Senate Seats  
UGS-W2013-12

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Submitted for Consideration: March 4, 2013
Action Requested: ⅔ approval by the Undergraduate Senate; ⅔ approval by the Graduate Student Council

WHEREAS Undergraduate students at Stanford are typically represented on the Undergraduate Senate by Sophomores who were elected as freshmen, and

WHEREAS upperclassmen at Stanford have unique experiences that make their perspective relevant to the representation of the student body, and

WHEREAS five seats reserved for upperclassmen still only reflects a representation rate of ⅔ of the seats for ⅓ of class years within the student body, compared with ⅔ of seats remaining for other top vote getters.

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

THAT the following Amendment be added to the Spring 2013 General Election Ballot:

Amendment B: An Amendment to the ASSU Constitution to Create Upperclass Senate Seats

Undergraduate students have long complained about the lack of representation across class years in their Undergraduate Senate; many Senators have historically been elected as Freshmen and serve as Sophomores. We, the undergraduate students of Stanford University, want to increase representation across class years within the student body. We want to allocate up to five seats for upperclassmen on the Undergraduate Senate, in order to create a more equitable representation of our student body.

Eligible population to vote: Undergraduate students only.
Sections of the Constitution affected: Article II, §3.A

Action requested by the Undergraduate Senate:
Previous notice, followed by ⅔ approval. (ASSU Constitution, Article VII, §1.B.2, §1.A, and §1.B.3)

Action requested by the Elections Commission:
Placement on the ballot for undergraduate students. (ASSU Constitution, Article VII, §1.A)

Action requested by undergraduate students: ⅔ approval for ratification. (ASSU Constitution, Article VII §2)

Text of the Amendment:

The ASSU Constitution, Article II, §3.A is amended to read:

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 upperclass candidates who receive the highest number of votes among the upperclass candidates shall become members of the Undergraduate Senate.
   a. An upperclass candidate is a candidate who will, at the beginning of Fall Quarter of his/her term, hold academic status as an undergraduate junior or senior, as defined by the University Registrar.
   b. There shall be a maximum of four upperclass candidates elected under this section. Any upperclass candidates who are not elected under this section may be elected under section 4.

4. After the upperclass 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.

The subsequent sections are renumbered accordingly.