

**SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Proposed Change to Santa Cruz Bylaw 6.2
Quorum**

TO: Members of the Santa Cruz Division

The Senate Advisory Committee has begun the process of reviewing Santa Cruz Divisional Bylaws. As one outcome of this review, the Senate Advisory Committee would like to propose the following amendment to the bylaws to change the quorum required at Senate meetings.

Background and Rationale

According to the Bylaws of the Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate, a quorum for the conduct of business at a Senate meeting is 10% of the membership of the division, which is currently 62 members. The attendance of this many Senators is by no means assured at meetings whose agendas lack controversial issues.

Most other UC divisions avoid this problem by conducting business through a representative assembly. Among those campuses who conduct business at a town hall type meeting where all Senators have the right to vote, UCSC has the highest quorum requirements (both in terms of percent and in terms of absolute numbers) within the UC system. By comparison, UC Berkeley's quorum requirement is the presence of 50 Senators, on a campus whose academic senate membership is approximately 2,200.

Two of the reasons why attendance at senate meetings may be declining are related to faculty turnover: (1) An ever increasing fraction of the Senate membership consists of emeriti, who are less likely to attend meetings, and (2) our substantial number of relatively new faculty are less steeped in the tradition of Senate meeting attendance. Both reasons might become more important with time.

Consequently, as a part of its review of the Senate bylaws, the Senate Advisory Committee is proposing to lower the quorum requirement to 5% of the membership of the division, a percentage that would still be higher than that of UC Berkeley. At UCSC, the right to a referendum by mail ballot will continue to ensure that the will of the majority of Senators (or 2/3 supermajority for bylaw revisions) will always prevail.

For these reasons, the Senate Advisory Committee, with the approval of RJ&E, urges the enactment of the following bylaw amendment to lower the quorum requirements of the Santa Cruz Division.

This legislation is to take effect April 1, 2002.

Current	Proposed
<p>6.2 Quorum</p> <p>Ten percent of the voting members of the Santa Cruz Division constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Division. (Am 28 May 69; 19Apr 72 effective 1 May 72; 29May 91)</p>	<p>6.2 Quorum</p> <p><u>Five percent</u> Ten percent of the voting members of the Santa Cruz Division constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Division. (Am 28 May 69; 19Apr 72 effective 1 May 72; 29May 91)</p>

Respectfully Submitted;

SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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