

Possible Timeline: (not to be included in voter guide)

Monday, 12/2: Send out the voter guide with the introductory message.

Monday, 12/9: Voting opens

Monday, 12/16: voting closes

January, 2020: Any approved changes are implemented

Message from the Academic Senate...

The Academic Senate Constitution contains an inconsistency that we are trying to resolve. Currently the Senate President is required to be contract faculty (which includes tenured and tenure-track faculty) and the Vice-President can be adjunct faculty. However, if the President leaves office, the Vice-President temporarily becomes President until the electorate elects a new President, thus creating a situation in which the Senate could be in violation of its own Constitution if the Vice-President were an adjunct faculty.

There is not a consensus among the Senators on how to resolve this issue, so you are being presented with two separate options for potentially revising the Constitution. You may vote for one of those proposed revisions or vote for the Constitution, with the aforementioned inconsistency, to remain unchanged.

During the extensive discussion on this topic in Senate Meetings over the past year, the Senate has voiced a strong desire to have adjunct representation on the Executive Committee, recognizing the importance of adjunct involvement in the shared governance of Santa Rosa Junior College. Thus, both options being presented to you for revising the Constitution ensure that the makeup of the Executive Committee includes at least one adjunct faculty.

Beyond that, the Senate is not in agreement regarding the potential revisions being presented to you for consideration. We have provided the options below with a summary of the arguments for and against each option shared during Senate Meetings to allow you to make an informed decision. In order for any change to be approved via this balloting process, one of the potential revisions must receive approval of two-thirds of those voting. If neither of the options for revision receives two-thirds of the votes then the Constitution will remain unchanged.

For further information, please contact your Senator. You will receive a ballot in your email on Monday, December 9.

OPTION 1:

Option 1 would allow for any member of the electorate (tenured, tenure-track, and adjunct) to be elected as President-elect, to ultimately serve as President. In addition, if all members of the Executive Committee are Contract Faculty, an Adjunct Faculty Representative would be selected from the current Adjunct Senators to serve on the Executive Committee. Likewise, if all members of the Executive Committee are Adjunct Faculty, a Contract Faculty Representative would be selected from the Contract Senators.

Link to the draft of the Constitution with Option 1:

https://academicssenate.santarosa.edu/sites/academicssenate.santarosa.edu/files/documents/20191002_constitution_draft_1.pdf

ARGUMENTS FOR OPTION 1

- We have a large number of adjunct faculty who contribute greatly to SRJC. To include these faculty in the pool of possible Senate Presidents would expand our options for electing a qualified candidate.
- Any faculty, whether adjunct or contract, who is willingly nominated as Senate President has the dedication to serve as President. If that person is then elected, then the electorate has endorsed them as President. If a member of the electorate does not feel they are qualified to be President, they have the right to vote against them.
- Some adjunct faculty have just as much, if not more, institutional knowledge than contract faculty. In particular, many retired faculty return as adjunct.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST OPTION 1

- The Senate President must work closely with (and sometimes take a stand against) the administration and it is important that they can do so without the appearance of vulnerability or a conflict of interest. Adjunct faculty do not have the same legal protections as contract faculty, making them more vulnerable to pressures from the administration. Even if there is no actual vulnerability, the appearance of it can compromise the strength of the Senate.
- Adjunct faculty are not required to perform college service and thus may not have the same level of exposure to the college that a tenured faculty would have. Tenured faculty have also gone through new faculty trainings and the tenure process.

OPTION 2:

Option 2 would allow for only tenured faculty to be elected as President-elect and Vice-President. An Adjunct Faculty Representative would be a permanent position on the Executive Committee and would be selected from the current Adjunct Senators.

Link to the draft of the Constitution with Option 2:

https://academicsenate.santarosa.edu/sites/academicsenate.santarosa.edu/files/documents/20191002_constitution_draft_2.pdf

ARGUMENTS FOR OPTION 2

- The President would have the protection of tenure when dealing with the administration, as would the Vice President if called to serve as President. Tenure provides legal protection that non-tenured and adjunct faculty do not have, strengthening the voice of the Senate.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST OPTION 2

- Untenured faculty would lose the current right to serve as President, thus reducing the pool of eligible candidates.
- Adjunct and non-tenured faculty would lose the current right to serve as Vice-President, thus reducing the pool of eligible candidates.

OPTION 3:

Option 3 is to leave the Constitution unchanged.

Link to the current Constitution:

<https://academicsenate.santarosa.edu/constitution-santa-rosa-junior-college-academic-senate>

ARGUMENTS FOR OPTION 3:

- Though the President would not necessarily have the protection of tenure, they would be a Contract Faculty member with somewhat greater legal protection than an Adjunct Faculty member.
- Adjunct Faculty would retain the current right to serve as Vice President.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST OPTION 3:

- In cases where the President is temporarily unable to serve and where the Vice President is an Adjunct Faculty member, the Vice President would not be eligible to perform the duties of the President. This would potentially leave the Senate without leadership and, in some cases, unable to perform vital functions that require the President's participation.
- Adjunct faculty would not have guaranteed representation on the Executive Committee.