

SCFA May 2011 Election Notice

Please Vote When You Receive Your Ballot!

May 31, 2011

this letter is being sent to all SCFA members

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Dear SCFA members:

The Santa Cruz Faculty Association's Bylaws require that members be notified in advance and on paper of any proposed amendments to our Bylaws. The purpose of this letter is to send you this information by email, with follow-up in paper mail in order to conform to the Bylaws, so that you can consider the issues right away (including a change in the Bylaws allowing email notifications!); and to alert you of our upcoming election, inviting you to (a) nominate other candidates if you wish and (b) please vote when you receive your ballot.

The most important Bylaws amendment is to allow much of the business of notification and election to be conducted by email, which will allow much more rapid and easy communication. Other amendments concern the timing of elections and make explicit who shall be eligible as members and as Executive Board members. Please see below for details.

Here, in explicit detail, is the information you will want to know about amendments to the Bylaws and the candidates for our forthcoming election. Please read and consider the information in this notice, which requires no response, and

PLEASE VOTE WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT

Election Notice

We are alerting you that the Nominating Committee is proposing four members in good standing as of May 9, 2011 to put forth as candidates for the Board.

Explanation: The SCFA Executive Board consists of at least seven

members who serve staggered 2-year terms.

This year, three members are continuing (Shelly Errington, Joel Primack, and Elizabeth Abrams) and four seats must be filled. After the election, the Executive Board will select the officers from within their own ranks. The officers will be Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary and Treasurer. The responsibilities of each position are detailed in Article VI of our Bylaws and can be viewed at ucscfa.org.

As current chair of the Board, I urge you to allow the Committee to consider you, or another qualified colleague you may identify, as a potential nominee for the 2011 election of the Board. The membership may petition for up to eleven members (less the continuing members - making the total this year to be up to eight members) who have been in good standing as of May 9, 2011. The Nominating Petitions must include confirmation of the nominated individual's willingness to serve if elected. Petition must be submitted to the attention of the Association's Secretary on or before Jun 9, 2011. Petitions may be sent via e-mail to Rosenberg@cucfa.org, or faxed to (510) 841-1921, the SCFA/AAUP's office.

Furthermore, we are proposing several changes to our Bylaws that will facilitate the election process in the future.

First, we propose that e-mail communication be allowed for the purpose of election notifications, ballots and election results. The Executive Boards would of course use the appropriate controls for security, using the technology of the moment. Once we are authorized to use e-mail, it will be easier to organize the election process as close to the appropriate timeline as possible.

Second, we propose that the Bylaws be changed to include the option of eliminating an actual ballot election for the Executive Board, WHEN AND IF no member has petitioned to include themselves or nominate another member as candidate for the Board. In this situation, the slate of candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee shall be considered elected after the appropriate period allowing further nominations has passed.

Third, we wish to clarify the requirements for membership. Our Bylaws were created many decades ago and we believe this slight modification is clarifying and appropriate: Membership in the SCFA is open to all faculty members of the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division. Members who hold Administrative positions above the rank of College Provost or of Department Chairs may not serve on the Executive Board.

The specific changes in the language to our Bylaws appear below.

On June 11, the ballot will be mailed to the address that we have on file for you. They must be returned by June 28th in order to be counted. If we do not have a home address, the ballot will be mailed to your campus office. If you would like to receive your mail at another address, please contact Deborah Rosenberg, current Staff, at Rosenberg@cucfa.org so that we can be sure that you receive your ballot. The return address will be printed for you on the ballot, which you will simply need to be refold, staple, and affix a stamp for mailing.

Nominees

Kirsten Gruesz and Norman Locks have completed their term of office, and will either step down from the Board or have chosen not to seek another term. We are grateful for their service to the Association.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Avril Thorne, Kathy Foley and Karen Bassi, propose the following candidates for the upcoming election in addition to the three existing board members, who will continue with their term of office. The newly elected board members will serve two-year terms on the Executive Board, beginning October 1, 2011 and ending September 30, 2013.

Shelly Errington (continuing term)
Joel Primack (continuing term)
Elizabeth Abrams (continuing term)
Benjamin Crow
Benjamin Carson
Regina Langhout
Elizabeth Stephens

The Nominating Committee is looking forward to receiving petitions from members and nominees who are willing to be considered as candidates for the 2011 election.

For the Executive Board
Shelly Errington
Chair of the Executive Board

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE V, SECTION 5

Elections for the Board shall be by mail vote of the members in good standing as of April 1st. Ballots shall be mailed no later than May 5th.

Change to:

Elections may be by e-mail, using appropriate controls for security to be determined by the Executive Board using the technology of the moment; in addition, members may be notified of the results of the election by e-mail. Elections for the Board shall be by mail or by e-mail vote of the members in good standing as of April 1st. Every effort shall be made to send the ballots no later than May 5th

ARTICLE V, SECTION 7

No later than April 13th, the Board will distribute by mail to the members the names of the persons nominated by the Nominating Committee; such notice also will indicate that further nominations may be made on petition of seven members in good standing as of April 1st. No later than April 13th, the Board will distribute by mail to the members the names of the persons nominated by the Nominating Committee; such notice also will indicate that further nominations may be made on petition of seven members in good standing as of April 1st. Such petitions shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Association no later than April 27th. The names of all candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee and by petition shall be placed on the ballot, with a designation of the method by which each was nominated.

Change to:

The election process should take no more than five weeks. By April 10, or as close to this date as is convenient, the Nominating Committee shall propose at least one, and not more than two, candidates for each Board position to be filled at that election. On approximately April 13, the Board will distribute to the members the names of the persons nominated by the Nominating Committee; such notice also will indicate that further nominations may be made on petition of seven members in good standing as of April 1st. Such petitions must be delivered to the Secretary of the Association within two weeks of said notice. The names of all candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee and by petition shall be placed on the ballot, with a designation of the method by which each was nominated. Every effort shall be made to send the ballot to the membership five weeks from the qualifying date previously set for members to have been in good standing. The Board shall announce the result of the election within seven days of the close of the ballot period.

ARTICLE X, MAIL BALLOTS

Section 1. Mail ballots, other than those scheduled for regular election to the Board, may be initiated for any purpose by the Executive Board or by the direction of a regular special meeting of the Association.

Section 2. Except as otherwise specified in these by-laws, those eligible to vote in any mail ballot shall be all members in good standing as of one month before the date on which the ballots are mailed. Unless the Executive Board shall declare that an emergency exists requiring a shorter period, all ballots postmarked within two weeks from the date of the mailing of the ballot shall be counted.

Section 3. Except as otherwise specified in these by-laws, matters submitted to the

membership by mail ballot shall require only a simple majority of those casting valid ballots.

Change to:

Article X, Ballots

Section 1. Mail or e-mail ballots, other than those scheduled for regular election to the Board, may be initiated for any purpose by the Executive Board or by the direction of a regular special meeting of the Association.

Section 2. Except as otherwise specified in these by-laws, those eligible to vote in any mail or e-mail ballot shall all be members in good standing as of one month before the date on which the ballots are sent. Unless the Executive Board shall declare that an emergency exists requiring a shorter period, all ballots received within two weeks from the date of the ballots are sent, shall be counted.

Section 3. Except as otherwise specified in these by-laws, matters submitted to the membership by mail or e-mail ballot shall require only a simple majority of those casting valid ballots.

Article III, Membership

Section 1.

Membership in the Association is open to all members of the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division. Members who are Administrative officers may not hold office.

Change to:

Section 1

Membership in the SCFA is open to all faculty members of the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division. Members who hold Administrative positions above the rank of College Provost or of Department Chairs may not serve on the Executive Board.

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