Proposed Amendments to the Student Government Constitution

Question 1: Shall the President and Vice-President have full voting rights when fewer than three voting members are present at a Student Government meeting?

Background: Currently, the President can veto legislation passed by the Student Government Council and the Vice-President can cast tie-breaking votes. The changes below will give full voting rights to the President and Vice-President whenever there are fewer than three voting Senators and/or Club Representatives present at a Student Government meeting. If passed, the Constitution will be amended as follows:

- Changes affecting Article 3, Section 1 – Legislative Council

  Current Article 3, Section 1, Clause 5:
  
  The President or Vice President may serve as a Club Representative. They will be able to serve for the purpose of quorum and discussion, but they are not entitled to voting rights.

  Amended Article 3, Section 1, Clause 5:
  
  The President or Vice President may serve as a Club Representative. They will be able to serve for the purpose of quorum and discussion, but they are not entitled to voting rights except under Clause Six of this section.

  New Article 3, Section 1, Clause 6:
  
  The President and Vice President shall have voting rights on all council votes if the Legislative Council has fewer than three (3) voting members present at a meeting.

- Changes affecting Article 4, Section 2 - Duties of the President

  Current Article 4, Section 2, Clause 7:
  
  Have authority to vote in the occurrence of a tie during meetings upon the absence of the Vice President.

  Amended Article 4, Section 2, Clause 7:
  
  Have authority to vote in the occurrence of a tie during meetings upon the absence of the Vice President. The President only has the right to vote on all matters before the Legislative Council if Article Three, Section One, Clause Six is in effect.

- Changes affecting Article 4, Section 3 – Duties of the Vice-President

  Current Article 4, Section 2, Clause 1:
  
  Attend all meetings of the Council and may only vote in the case of a tie.

  Amended Article 4, Section 2, Clause 1:
  
  Attend all meetings of the Council and may only vote in the case of a tie except under Article Three, Section One, Clause Six.
Question 2: Shall proposed changes to Article Five, Clause 3 be adopted?

Background: The proposed change clarifies the procedure for dismissing a member of either the Legislative or Executive branch or Student Government for failure to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.

If passed, Article 5 (Qualifications for Office) of the Constitution will be amended as follows:

Current Article 5, Clause 3:

Any Council member, whose cumulative G.P.A falls below 2.0 will not be eligible for probation and will immediately be dismissed from the Council.

Amended Article 5, Clause 3:

Any member of the Legislative or Executive branches whose cumulative G.P.A falls below 2.0 will not be eligible for probation. Upon confirmation of grade deficiency, notification will be given to the Council member by the ASMSC Advisor, and the Council member will be immediately dismissed from the Council.

Question 3: Shall the proposed changes to Article 7, Section 1, Clause 1 be adopted?

Background: The proposed change reduces the size of the Election Board from five members to three. In the past, members of the Election Board staffed the voting sites for Student Government elections. With the move to electronic voting, fewer people are required to create the ballots, conduct the election, and certify the results.

If passed Article 7, Section 1 (Election Board), Clause 1 of the Constitution will be amended as follows:

Current Article 7, Section 1, Clause 1:

The board shall consist of five (5) members, one of whom shall be a Matanuska-Susitna College administrative, faculty, or staff member, and one of whom shall be the Student Government Secretary/Treasurer, and one of whom shall be a student at large. Students serving on the Election Board must meet the qualifications presented in Article Five of this constitution.

Amended Article 7, Section 1, Clause 1:

The board shall consist of at least 3 members, one of whom shall be a Matanuska-Susitna College administrative, faculty, or staff member, and one of whom shall be the Student Government Secretary/Treasurer, and one of whom shall be a student at large. Students serving on the Election Board must meet the qualifications presented in Article Five of this constitution.

Note: The “qualifications presented in Article Five” are a GPA of 2.5 or higher for students who have an established GPA with the University of Alaska, or the presence of an academic performance agreement for students who have a GPA between 2.0 and 2.5. Students whose GPA is below 2.0 are ineligible to serve, but students who do not yet have a GPA established with the University of Alaska are eligible to serve.
Question 4: Shall the proposed changes to Article 8, Section 2, Clauses 2 and 3 be adopted?

Background: If there is a vacant position for a Senator within Student Government between elections, persons who would like to become a Senator are required to collect 25 signatures from students in support of their candidacy and attend three Student Government Council meetings. Distance students are eligible to serve as Senators, but the signature requirement makes it more difficult for them to apply for appointment. This amendment removes the requirement to collect signatures.

If passed, Article 8 (Vacancies), Section 2 of the Constitution would be amended as follows:

Current Article 8, Section 2, Clauses 2 and 3:

Clause Two: Any member of ASMSC who meets the constitutional qualifications for office and completes the petition process for appointment to the office will be considered as a candidate for the position of senator.

Clause Three: The petition process consists of collecting twenty-five (25) MSC student signatures, attending three official Council meetings, and meeting the qualifications of an officer as outlined in Article Five, Clause One.

Amended Article 8, Section 2, Clauses 2 and 3:

Clause 2: Any member of ASMSC who meets the constitutional qualifications for office outlined in Article Five, Clause One and attends three official Council meetings can be considered as a candidate for the position of Senator if there is a vacancy.

<Current Clause 3 would be deleted>