

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3375-19/EX (Rev)
March 5, 2019

**SPECIAL RULE OF ORDER GOVERNING DEBATE ON SUBSTANTIVE
MOTIONS: 3 FOR/3 AGAINST**

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU create a special rule of order to read: “During debate of substantive motions the Chair shall recognize three speakers for and three speakers against each action item, at which time debate shall close. The maker of the substantive motion shall be allowed to speak to the motion before requests to speak from other members of the body are honored and will not be counted towards the rule of three for and three against. The Academic Senate CSU may waive this rule by a majority vote of those present. The motion to waive this rule shall be debatable. The maker of the motion to waive shall be allowed to speak to the motion before requests to speak from other members of the body are honored and will not be counted towards the rule of three for and three against”; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to the CSU campus Senate Chairs, and the California State Student Association (CSSA).

***RATIONALE:** The Academic Senate CSU has a long tradition of using a “3/3 rule” where, during debate on substantive motions, the Chair recognizes three speakers for and three speakers against the motion and then debate is closed, except that the rule can be waived by a 2/3 vote of those Senators present. The rule should be formalized given its ongoing significant impact on senate deliberations. The vote to waive rules under Robert’s Rules of Order is normally 2/3, given that many rules protect the minority from action by the majority to limit debate. However, in the case of the 3/3 rule the opportunity for debate is created (rather than limited) for both the majority and minority so the vote to waive the rule should be a simple majority. Making the motion to waive debate allows for a full airing of the reasons why the speaker’s list should be expanded beyond 3 speakers for and 3 speakers against.*

Approved – May 16-17, 2019