Explanation of Key Proposed Amendments to Retirees Association Constitution and By-Laws

1. Make membership in the organization voluntary and automatic (Constitution, Article III).

Currently our Constitution requires "payment of dues" for Association membership. We think this requirement is both misleading and counterproductive. Granted, dues are relatively low ($35 annually). Nevertheless, the present wording implies that members are personally gaining tangible benefits by joining. In fact, all monies collected through "dues" go to support others through student scholarships, faculty grants, and the like. Members pay the real costs of attending events such as the Association fall brunch. And anyone can voluntarily receive Association information such as our monthly newsletter.

We believe the proposed change will both encourage active membership and enhance contributions. Many may be inclined to give higher amounts if they know the funds are essentially a donation in support of the University. Additionally, automatic membership (with the option to opt out) takes away one thing people need to do upon retirement.

2. Empower the Board of Directors to encourage donations and recommend donation levels (By-Laws, Article I)

This new section aims to help the Board ensure that contributions keep pace with funding needs for scholarships, faculty grants, etc.

3. Expand those eligible for Association membership (Constitution, Article III).

At present our Constitution is not explicit that people retiring from auxiliary organizations such as the University Union are eligible for Association membership. Yet many such people have long associations with Sacramento State, may want to remain engaged with it, and wish to support University activities. The amendments make clear that we welcome their membership.

4. Clarify which Board of Directors members are elected and voting rights for Board members (Constitution, Articles IV and V).

The existing Constitution contains some ambiguities regarding which Board of Directors members are elected and who has voting rights. In practice, the four officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) have been elected by the Association members who are present at a fall event; the officers have in turn selected ex officio and at-large members. The proposed amendments make this explicit. Additionally, the changes clarify that all Board members have voting rights at meetings.

5. Eliminate provisions for an executive committee of the Board of Directors (By-Laws, Article III).

The current by-laws provide for an Executive Committee within the Board of Directors. In practice, this committee has not been used in recent years and we believe it is unnecessary.