Whereas the Elections Council holds the opinion that the vast majority of Middlebury students are not familiar with the procedures involved with instant-runoff voting (IRV) and single-transferable-vote voting (STV),

Whereas misinformation and confusion about the aforementioned systems of voting potentially contaminate the elections process and jeopardize the legitimacy of election returns,

Whereas the aforementioned systems of voting increase the number of rounds of voting and thereby increase the potential for ties (as evidenced by the Fall 2015 Feb election returns),

Whereas there is currently no mechanism in the SGA Constitution or Bylaws to proceed by in the event of a tie,

Whereas the Elections Council holds the opinion that virtually all voting students understand the mechanics behind winner-take-all voting,

Whereas it has historically been very rare that the results of elections would have been altered by a hypothetical implementation of a winner-take-all voting system,

Whereas a winner-take-all system will greatly expedite the vote-tallying process and ensure that constituencies receive results much quicker,

Be it enacted…

Section VI, (D) of the SGA bylaws is repealed and replaced by the following text (new text in bold):

(D) Voting Procedures

The Elections Council Chair, with the support of the Elections Council, shall carry out elections according to the following procedures:

(1) Elections for single-member constituencies shall be conducted such that the candidate with the highest number of votes shall win.
(2) Elections for multi-member constituencies (class senators) shall be conducted such that the two candidates with the first and second highest number of votes shall win. In multi-member constituencies, every voter will have up to two votes that cannot be applied to the same candidate.

(3) At the opening of polls, the Elections Council Chair shall send an email to the relevant electorate detailing election procedures.

(4) At the close of polls, the Elections Council Chair shall email vote totals and the winner(s) to all candidates and The Middlebury Campus as soon as possible but within six hours.

(5) The Elections Council Chair shall send an email announcing the winners to relevant student constituencies as soon as possible but no later than twelve hours after the closing of the polls. If the results are inconclusive by these deadlines, the Elections Council Chair shall inform the candidates, The Middlebury Campus, and relevant student constituencies as to the reason of the delay. The Elections Council Chair shall also post results to the SGA website before the beginning of the next SGA meeting.

(6) Candidates for President or SCOCC may simultaneously be a candidate for one class or Commons senator seat. In the event that the candidate wins the election for President or SCOCC, they shall be disqualified from the senate election.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION.**

*Originally proposed.*

Ilana Gratch, President
Zak Fisher, Director of Membership