

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Governance Committee
RE: Recommended by-laws changes (2-motions)
DATE: 177th Plenary, October 19-21, 2017
LOCATION: SUNY Delhi
RESOLUTION #: 177-07-1
VOTE TALLY:

RATIONALE:

IN RESPONSE TO a request by the AY 2016-2017 Nominating Committee, the Governance Committee has reviewed Article III: Officers and Elections of the UFS Bylaws and Procedures (2013), and proposes the following two changes to address issues raised by the Parliamentarian, the Nominating Committee and several of last year's Presidential Candidates. Specifically, the committee looked at the length of statement and vita, and the method and conduct of elections.

The committee felt that the length of statement and vita were acceptable, as links could be used to longer documents, but felt that the following should be addressed before a more thorough review of the entire Bylaws and Procedures Document is undertaken during AY 2017-2018: (a) allowing the candidates to address the electorate, (b) campaigning (allowed or not allowed), (c) what to do in case of a tie vote and (d) teller's reports between rounds.

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governance Committee recommends that the UFS Senators vote on two separate motions as outlined below. These additions, highlighted below in yellow, will go into effect immediately and will be reflected in the spring election of a Vice President/Secretary.

MOTION #1: Add language to allow and ensure that candidates have an opportunity to answer questions from the electorate and to ask the nominating committee to provide guidance on electioneering/campaigning.

CURRENTLY (2013 bylaws):

Article III: Officers and Elections. Section D. Conduct of Elections. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee or Interterm Nominating Committee to conduct all elections for Officers of the Senate and Members of the Executive Committee at meetings of the Senate.

CHANGE TO:

Article III: Officers and Elections. Section D. Conduct of Elections. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee or Interterm Nominating Committee to conduct all elections for Officers of the Senate and Members of the Executive Committee at meetings of the Senate. **Facilitated by the chair of the Nominating Committee, at a plenary during which there is an election, time will be offered to the candidates to answer questions from the voting members. In conjunction with any election, candidates will receive guidelines for campaigning from the Nominating Committee.**

MOTION #2: Add language to clarify the process that will be taken in the event that there is tie and to suppress the numerical teller's report between rounds.

CURRENTLY (2013 bylaws):

Section E. Method of Elections. Elections shall be by secret ballot of the Senate as a whole, and a majority of the votes cast shall be required for election. If no candidate for an office or position receives a majority of the votes cast, then the candidate who received the lowest number of votes shall be removed from the slate, and the election repeated until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. If there is only one candidate for an officer position as Member of the Executive Committee and if there is no objection from the floor, the Senate may authorize the Vice President/Secretary to cast a single ballot for that candidate.

CHANGE TO:

Section E. Method of Elections. Elections shall be by secret ballot of the Senate as a whole, and a majority of the votes cast shall be required for election. If no candidate for an office or position receives a majority of the votes cast, then the candidate who received the lowest number of votes shall be removed from the ballot, and the election repeated until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. In the case of a tie for the lowest number of votes in any round, the two tied candidates will be identified and the election will be repeated with no candidates removed from the ballot. The vote count for the teller's report shall be reported only for the final ballot. If there is only one candidate for an officer position as Member of the Executive Committee and if there is no objection from the floor, the Senate may authorize the Vice President/Secretary to cast a single ballot for that candidate.

JAR 11/13/17