

Resolution to amend the Standing Orders of the Faculty Senate allowing electronic voting for elections, resolutions and referenda

Preamble: There is the need for efficient and inclusive participation of the Voting Faculty in the University at Buffalo Governance;

Therefore be it resolved, That the following electronic voting amendment be inserted as Article 1.H into the faculty Senate Standing Orders;

H. Electronic Voting. Referenda, resolutions and elections of the Voting Faculty may be conducted by electronic voting.

i. Electronic voting by Voting faculty may be conducted only after resolutions have been presented and discussed at two Faculty Senate meetings (cf. Standing Orders, 5.A.iii), unless judged urgent and requiring haste but the Chair (cf. Standing Orders, 5.B.). The resolution and proposed amendments along with pertinent arguments for or against will be sent electronically to the official e-mail address of the Voting Faculty members together with instructions on the voting process for the resolution and amendments. Votes will be Yes or No for the resolution and each amendment. Votes must be cast within 14 (fourteen) days of the e-mail announcement. All votes will be confirmed by a reply to a message sent to the official University at Buffalo e-mail address of the Faculty member. Upon Confirmation the vote will be officially cast. As with paper ballots, passage of the referendum or resolution will be based on a Yes response by either a simple majority or a 2/3 majority votes cast depending on the rules affected as described (cf. Bylaws, VII.4; Charter, VIII.3.B; Standing Orders, G).

ii. Electronic elections of SUNY Senators and Faculty Senate officers will be performed as described in the preceding paragraph and determined by simple majority of votes cast.

iii. The results of all electronic votes will be transmitted to the Faculty Senate and Voting Faculty electronically and recorded in the minutes of the next Faculty Senate meeting by a report from the Chair.

iv. Voting procedures will ensure confidentiality of the voting process and accuracy of vote counting by oversight by the Chairs of the faculty Senate Elections Committee and Bylaws Committee or their designees, who must be approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

v. No one who is a candidate in any given election will participate in vote counting in that election.

vi. Electronic voting procedures will ensure the confidentiality and accuracy of voting procedures and may include e-mail balloting and casting as recommended by the Elections Committee and proved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.