

## **Elections of the Senate Executive Committee Spring 2013**

The Senate Bylaws (Article 1, Section II-4) rule nominations from the floor and election by paper ballot, “[the approved changes to be inserted here]”

### **A. Nominations from the Floor**

Nominations and voting for the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary will be held first in that order, and the balloting and announcement of results for each office will immediately follow nominations and voting for that office. The Chair of the Elections Council calls for nominations from the floor by saying, “Nominations are now in order for the office of Chair.” No second is required, but one or more members will second a nomination to indicate endorsement (RONR, 11th edition, p. 432). The same procedures shall be used for the election of the Vice Chair and Secretary. Nominations and voting for the three At-Large Representatives to the Executive Committee will then be held.

### **B. Speeches (in alphabetical order)**

Each candidate will be given the floor in alphabetical order to make a brief speech.

### **C. Voting Method (Voting by ballot)**

Whether the positions are contested or not, voting members will cast a vote using paper ballot. The ballots consist of small slips of blank paper on which the voters write the name of the candidate of their choice. The paper ballots shall be prepared in advance by the Elections Council for distribution at the proper time.

### **D. Balloting Procedure**

The Chair of the Elections Council appoints tellers to distribute, collect, and count the ballots, and to report the vote. Tellers are members and/or designees of the Elections Council, but shall not be voting members. Each voting member is to be called and handed out a blank ballot by the tellers. When the balloting is completed, each ballot should be folded once (RONR, p. 414, ll. 21-24). Each voting member will be called again and asked to hand his/her folded ballot to a member or designee of the Elections Council.

Elections Council Chair inquires, “Have all voted who wish to do so.”

If there is no response, the chair says, “If no one else wishes to vote... [pause], the polls are closed.” This declares the polls closed by unanimous consent (RONR, p. 415, ll. 13-17).

### **E. Recording the Votes**

The Elections Council shall follow the Robert's Rules of Order (Section 45), the tellers ignore blank ballots and other ballots that indicate no preference, treating them as abstentions which do not count toward the number of votes cast. Unintelligible ballots or ballots cast for an unidentifiable or ineligible candidate are treated instead as illegal votes—that is, they are counted as votes cast but are not credited to any candidate or choice (RONR, 11th edition, p. 416). Technical errors, like the misspelling of a word or name, or a mis-folded ballot, do not make a vote illegal if the meaning of the ballot is clear (p. 416).

### **F. Tellers' Report and the Chair's Declaration of the Result**

Tellers hand the tellers' report to the chair of the Elections Council. The chair reads the tellers' report by stating exact vote counts, including abstentions. The report should follow this form:

#### TELLERS' REPORT

Number of votes cast:

Necessary for election (simple majority of votes cast for that position):

Candidate A received:

Candidate B received:

Candidate C received:

*Illegal Votes*

*Abstentions*

The Elections Council Chair hands the Senate Chair the teller's report. The Senate Chair reads the teller's report and declares the result. The tellers' report is entered in full in the minutes. The tellers place the ballots and tally sheets in the custody of the secretary, who keeps them under seal until the time within which a recount may be ordered expires, and then destroys them (RONR, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, pp. 418-419).

The same procedures shall be used for the election of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and the At-Large Representatives to the Executive Committee except that At-Large positions do not require a majority of votes cast. The three candidates with the plurality of votes shall be elected.

### **Call for Nominations for the Senate Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary**

Nominations are now in order for the Senate Chair for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Are there any nominations for the chair position?

Is there a second to the nomination?

Are there any other nominations for the chair position?

Is there a motion to close nominations?

Is there a second to the motion?

(If seconded,) it is moved and seconded to close the nominations.

All those in favor say aye, those opposed say no.

### **Call for Nominations for the three At-Large Representatives to the Executive Committee**

Nominations are now in order for the three at-large representative positions to the Executive Committee for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Are there any nominations for the at-large representative positions?

Is there a second to the nomination?

Are there any other nominations for the at-large representative positions?

Is there a motion to close nominations?

Is there a second to the motion?

(If seconded,) it is moved and seconded to close the nominations.

All those in favor say aye, those opposed say no.

Last revised and approved 05/02/2013