

Proposed rules for officer elections

Section 2. Election of Officers: The Executive Committee of the University Faculty shall appoint a Nominating Committee of six members at least 90 days prior to the spring meeting of the University Faculty. The Nominating Committee shall present two names for each of the offices of chair-elect and secretary-elect. The names of nominees shall be sent to the membership at least 14 **calendar** days prior to the spring meeting. ~~Nominations may be made from the floor at the spring meeting if the consent of the nominee has been obtained. Election shall be by secret ballot with a majority of the votes cast required for election. Should no nominee receive a majority on the first ballot there shall be at the same meeting a run-off election between the two nominees receiving the largest number of votes on the first ballot.~~ **The secretary will send the voting faculty instructions for casting ballots five calendar days prior to the spring meeting. The ballot will include the names of the nominees for each position, with provision for write-in candidates for each office. Faculty may cast votes in any of the five calendar days prior to the spring meeting. The nominee with a majority of the votes cast will be elected. The secretary and secretary-elect will certify the results of the election on the day of the spring meeting. The results will be announced at the spring meeting and the** ~~The newly~~ elected officers shall take office at the end of the spring meeting.

~~Section 3. Absentee Voting: A member of the University Faculty may vote in the election for officers of the University Faculty by absentee secret ballot if the member cannot attend the spring meeting of the University Faculty because of a conflict with a scheduled class or other required and official University activities. The secretary of the University Faculty shall administer the absentee ballot process.~~

~~Requests for permission to vote by absentee ballot must be submitted in writing to the secretary of the University Faculty at least ten days prior to the spring meeting of the University Faculty. Such requests must be documented by proper justification for the member's inability to attend the spring meeting (such as copies of class roll, conference program, or out-of-town commitments showing evidence of conflict), and should be submitted as early as possible by the faculty member. If a request for permission to vote by absentee ballot is not adequately justified, the secretary may deny the request and shall so inform the faculty member in writing at least seven days prior to the spring meeting. A faculty member wishing to appeal the secretary's decision may petition the University Senate Rules Committee to reverse the secretary's ruling. Such an appeal must be made within 48 hours of the faculty member's being notified of the secretary's denial of the member's request.~~

~~The membership shall be notified of the times and place for absentee balloting in the official notification to the membership of nominees for the offices of the University Faculty. Absentee balloting shall be by secret vote and shall take place during the seven days prior to the spring meeting.~~

~~Absentee ballots shall be kept separate from meeting ballots and shall be counted at the same time as meeting ballots are counted. Absentee ballots shall be counted and included in the final results only for the election of officers as declared in the original list of nominees for officers of the University Faculty. Absentee ballots shall not be counted or included in the final results for elections in which the ballot is changed by nominations from the floor, or in the case of run-off elections.~~

~~Section 4.~~ **Section 3.** Vacancies: Should a vacancy occur in either the office of chair or secretary, the chair elect or secretary-elect shall assume the duties of the vacant office. Should a vacancy occur in either the office of chair-elect or secretary-elect before September 15, the Executive Committee shall appoint a nominating committee of six members to present two names for the vacant office. These names shall be sent to the membership in advance of the fall meeting of the University Faculty. An election to fill the vacant position shall then be held at the fall meeting in accordance with the procedures spelled out in Article 3, Section 2. Should a vacancy occur after September 15 in either the office of chair-elect or secretary-elect, the vacancy shall not be filled, but the duties of the office shall be performed by a person nominated by the Senate Rules Committee and approved by the University Senate.

There should be some mechanism for allowing faculty to vote for someone not selected by the Nominating Committee. I retained the write-in option that our current system uses. Another option would be to allow a

system of nomination by petition. After the Nominating Committee makes its slate known, a petition signed by 10% [for example] of voting faculty could place another person on the ballot. Other options suggested by faculty can also be considered. --PS