

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

University Statutes and Senate Procedures
(First Reading; Information)

SP.11.05 Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article II, Section 6 – Nominating Procedures

BACKGROUND

The *Senate Constitution* provides for a two-step process for the election of faculty senators. There is first a nominating ballot, intended to determine those faculty members of the voting unit (usually a department) who are interested in running for the Senate, and to reduce their number to not more than twice the number of seats to be filled in the election. There is then a final ballot in which the voting members of the unit elect their representatives.

The *Constitution* specifies that the nominating ballot shall contain "the names of all those eligible to vote in the unit." The experience of some units has been that various members of the faculty who are not interested in running or serving in the Senate nevertheless neglect to inform their colleagues, and thereby sometimes get elected. So some units have formed the practice of first asking all eligible voters in the unit to indicate whether they are willing to serve if elected, and then including in the nominating ballot only those who have affirmed their willingness. (The USSP Committee refers to this as an "opt-in" procedure.)

Until recently, the *Senate Election Rules* required the nominating ballots to include all those eligible to serve. However, they provided for those unit members who were "not available for election" for any reason to so notify the department office, and thus presumably be omitted from the nominating ballot. (USSP refers to this as an "opt-out" procedure.)

At the Senate meeting of October 4, 2010, the Senate adopted SP.10.08, amending the *Senate Election Rules* to provide that:

A unit may choose to prepare a nominating ballot that either:

- (1.) contains the names of all members of the faculty except those who are unwilling to serve or
- (2.) contains the names of the members of the faculty who have expressed a willingness to serve.

I.e., a unit may adopt either an opt-in or an opt-out procedure. (This is what many departments have been doing for some years.)

However, it was pointed out at that Senate meeting that the *Constitution* does not authorize an opt-in procedure. (It is not clear that it even authorizes an opt-out procedure.)

USSP now proposes that the Senate amend the *Constitution* to clearly authorize both of these alternatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Constitution*. Text to be deleted is indicated in [square brackets] and text to be added is underscored.

PROPOSED REVISION TO THE *CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE II, SECTION 6*

- 1 6. Each faculty voting unit shall provide to its faculty electorate a nominating ballot
2 [containing the names of all those eligible to vote in the unit] that either contains the
3 names of all those faculty who are eligible to vote in the unit except those who are
4 unwilling to serve, or contains the names of all those faculty who are eligible to vote
5 in the unit who have expressed a willingness to serve. Each member of the unit's
6 faculty electorate shall be entitled to cast one nominating vote for each open
7 senatorial position apportioned to the unit; there shall be no cumulative voting. The
8 voting unit shall then prepare an election ballot containing the names of those who
9 received the highest number of nominating votes and who are willing to serve. The
10 number of names on the election ballot shall equal twice the number of those to be
11 elected or all of those nominated, if the number of those nominated is less than twice
12 the number to be elected. The nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes shall
13 be deemed elected.
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