Draft Proposal for Faculty Senate Elections

I.   Eligibility and Duration of Service

A. Controlled by the Faculty Senate Constitution.

II.   Timeline

A. The outgoing executive committee shall publish a timeline for the nominations and election at least one month before the end of each spring term. The timeline shall allow for the following:

  1. At least five days for making nominations, followed by

  2. At least five days for accepting/declining nominations, followed by

  3. At least one week before the election.

  4. The election shall be held on a date anticipated to allow all faculty the ability to cast their votes.

  5. At least one week after the election before the end of the term, to allow time for any run-off elections.

III.   Nominations

A. Any faculty member may nominate any eligible faculty member for any position. Self-nominations are allowed. Candidates may be nominated for more than one office, but may only accept the nomination for a single office.

IV.   Elections – Publication and Platform

A. The outgoing Secretary shall coordinate and supervise the election process, observing the following.

  1. The Secretary shall publish a final list of all eligible nominees at least 5 days before the election, along with the date, time, and polling location.

B. Voting shall be conducted by paper ballot. The following must be ensured:

  1. Each eligible faculty member may only cast votes on a single ballot.

  2. The ballots shall be designed to avoid the possibility of identifying the person casting the vote, and shall be collected in a manner that allows them to be randomized before tallying the votes.

  3. Votes shall not be tallied until polls close.

  4. The votes shall be tallied separately by at least two members of the outgoing executive committee immediately after the close of the polls, at the polling location. All faculty members shall be allowed to witness the tallying in person, and shall be allowed to independently verify the tallies under the supervision of those present.

C. Votes will be anonymous, by secret ballot.

V.   Elections – Rules

A. The election shall be conducted using an approval-type system. Every eligible faculty member shall indicate which candidate(s) he or she approves of for each position. The candidate with the most votes for each office shall take that office at the beginning of the next term.

B. The Secretary shall publish the results of the election to the faculty at large without delay. In the event of a tie for a single office, the Secretary shall follow up within two days with the date, time, and polling location for the run-off election. Voting shall again be by paper ballot, subject to the same requirements.

VI.   Elections – Rules for Run-Off Elections

A. In case two or more candidates tie for a single office, a run-off election shall be held between the candidates who tied. It shall be conducted using a ranking-type system (Borda Count).

B. Every eligible faculty member shall rank the candidates from least favorite to favorite, and assign points as follows: 0 for least favorite, 1 for next-most favorite, etc. (In breaking a three-way tie, points will be 0, 1, and 2, with 2 points going to the favorite candidate.) At the close of the election, points for each candidate shall be tallied, and the candidate with the most points shall take that office at the beginning of the next term.

C. Note that in the case of a run-off election for two candidates, this system devolves into a simple majority. Ballots may be presented as such, with a mark indicating 1 point and no mark indicating 0 points.

D. Should the run-off election again result in a tie, the outgoing Executive Committee shall choose which of the tied candidates shall hold the office for the next term.