

Requested bylaws change to clarify the request for a secret ballot.

Recently a secret ballot was requested by a member of Academic Governance and was acted upon without consent of the Membership of Academic Governance as is required by Robert's Rules of Order. ESF's Senator Kelley Donaghy requested a clarification from the University Faculty Senate Parliamentarian regarding proper procedure for requesting a secret ballot. It was determined that under Robert's Rules in order to do a secret ballot it has to be the will of the body not an individual. Our bylaws does not speak directly to a procedure for doing secret ballot so Robert's Rules prevails. Therefore a request is being made to clarify this section of the bylaws as suggested below.

Currently Section I.E.4 reads

Prior to a vote, any voting member may request a secret ballot.

It is therefore proposed that Section I.E.4. Be clarified to read:

Prior to a vote, any voting member may request a secret ballot. Following approval of the secret ballot by the majority of members present, voting can occur. Either the method of electronic voting commencing within the week of the meeting, or via paper ballot can be used, such that there are no more than 4 weeks between the meeting when the resolution was proposed and the meeting at which the results of the vote are reported. The motion to request a secret ballot should indicate which is preferred, paper or electronic balloting.