

University of Kentucky
University Senate Rules and Elections Committee
Report to Senate Council
February 27, 2008

The Rules and Elections Committee has approved the following item and we recommend that the Senate Council approve them and recommend them favorably to the Senate.

Election of Senate Council Members

Rule 1.3.1.2(A)(3) specifies a complex two- or three-step process by which Senate Council members are elected. After having given these rules a few years to operate, we concluded that it would be best to simplify and clarify the process. We changed the election to a one-round process.

Changes: deletions are ~~stricken through~~, additions are underlined.

3. Election. Elections shall be conducted by electronic secret ballot or paper secret ballot if electronic election is not feasible. Three (3) elected faculty representatives in the University Senate shall be elected annually during the fall semester to serve on the Senate Council. The election shall be conducted under the supervision of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee. [US: 1/18/88]

(a) Nominating Round. On the nominating ballot, each elected Faculty Senator may nominate up to three (3) eligible Senators from the roster of the eligible Faculty Senators as certified by the Chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee and made available to Senators.

There shall be six (6) names on the voting ballot. The six (6) eligible Senators receiving the largest number of nominations shall be placed on the voting ballot, except that not more than twice the number of names from any one college as could potentially be elected from that college shall be eligible for being placed on the voting ballot. All ties will be resolved by a random drawing. Prior to placing the names of nominees on the voting ballot, the nominees' willingness to serve shall be ascertained by the Chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee.

(b) Voting Round. Each voter must rank order exactly three (3) candidates from the list of the six (6) nominees on the voting ballot. Failure to rank order exactly three (3) different candidates will disqualify the ballot. ~~References in sections (c), (d), and (e) below to "ballots" refers only to those ballots certified as countable.~~ The six nominees will be ranked as follows:

(1) By the number of first-choice votes;

(2) If there are any ties, the higher ranking goes to the candidate with the larger number of second-choice votes;

(3) If there are still ties, the higher ranking goes to the candidate with the larger number of third-choice votes;

(4) If there are still ties, the ranking will be determined by random draw.

(c) Election. The three highest-ranked candidates under subsection (b) above are elected.

(c) Tabulation Round(s). First, the total number of eligible ballots is determined.

Next, each of the six (6) candidates shall be allocated the number of ballots on which the candidate has been ranked first. Any candidate whose total allocation is at least one-third (1/3) of the total number of ballots is elected. Except that if, at any time in the entire tabulation process, a total number of candidates from any one college is elected that is equal to that college's total number of eligible seats, then any remaining candidates from that college will be removed from the ballots, and the ballots re-tabulated according to the rankings of the remaining candidates on each of them.

If three (3) candidates are elected at this point, the election ends here. If fewer than three (3) are elected, the following "Sequential Run-off" process will be followed.

(d) Sequential Run-off.

i. If fewer than three (3) candidates are elected pursuant to section (c) above, then the following run-off tabulation will be followed: On each ballot, the name(s) of the elected candidate(s) will be removed, and the ballots re-tabulated according to the rankings of the remaining candidates on each of them. Any candidate who is allocated at least one-third (1/3) of the total number of ballots after this re-tabulation shall be declared elected.

ii. If no candidates are elected pursuant to section (c) above, then the name of the candidate with the fewest top rankings shall be removed. In case of a tie, the candidate with the fewest total number of votes of any rank will be eliminated, with any further ties decided by a random draw. The ballots will then be re-tabulated again according to the rankings of the remaining candidates on each of them. Any candidate now allocated at least one-third (1/3) of these re-tabulated ballots shall be elected.

iii. If a total of three (3) candidates are elected at this point, the election ends here. This procedure shall be repeated as necessary until three (3) candidates are elected.

(e) Runners-Up. After three (3) candidates have been elected, three (3) ranked runners-up will be chosen according to the number of ballots allocated to them at the end of the last tabulation round. In case of a tie, the candidate with the most total number of votes of any rank will be ranked first, with any further ties decided by a random draw. If there are fewer than three (3) such runners-up, then additional runners-up will be chosen to bring the total to three (3), with the additional runners-up ranked according to the reverse order of their elimination. The **remaining three candidates** runners-up will be considered in the order so ranked in case of future vacancies on the Senate Council.