

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2006-07-6
April 5, 2007

REVISION TO SECTION 8.2 OF THE BY-LAWS OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The section of the Faculty Senate By-Laws describing the referendum process (8.2) has been relatively unchanged in more than thirty years. As the Executive Committee began to prepare a Referendum of the Faculty this spring, it became clear to everyone that the process outlined in the By-Laws was cumbersome, time consuming and a drain on environmental resources. In light of more modern methods for distribution of ballots through e-mail or the web, the Executive Committee recommends the following amendment to section 8.2* of the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate (additions are ***bold underlined italics***, deleted language has ~~strike through~~ markings):

8.2 Secret mail ballots of the General Faculty shall be conducted either to ratify amendments to the Senate Constitution or to recall Senate actions.

They shall be conducted as follows:

The Secretary of the Senate shall distribute a ballot to every eligible member of the faculty ***following a procedure adopted by the Faculty Senate.***

~~Two envelopes shall be distributed with the ballot. One envelope shall bear the word BALLOT, and will be used by the faculty member to enclose and seal his/her ballot. The second envelope shall be used as an outer mailing envelope. In order for a ballot to be valid, it must (1) be returned in the two envelopes as outlined above with the outer envelope signed, and (2) be received by the Secretary of the Senate within 15 days after the date on which the ballots were mailed to the faculty by the Secretary of the Senate, except that faculty members absent on official business may record their vote by telegram or radio telegram addressed to the Secretary of the Senate, in which case the ballot will not be secret, but it must be recorded within the time limit. The tellers will validate the eligibility of the voter by the outer signed envelope, and then separate inner sealed envelopes from the outer envelope so that the inner envelopes can no longer be identified with the individual voters before opening the inner envelopes and counting the ballots.~~

~~The outer envelopes shall be retained separately until the outcome of the referendum shall have been decided. The names of those faculty members who have returned ballots as identified by the signatures on the outer envelopes shall be made available to any interested party during the 15 day voting period. At the end of the 15-day ***referendum*** period the ballots shall be counted and the results certified to the President of the University and to the Chairperson of the Senate.~~

*NOTE: Changes to the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate may not be approved at the meeting at which they are first moved.