GW | Faculty Senate

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS OF THE FACULTY SENATE IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 (20/12)

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 2(b) of the Faculty Organization Plan (FOP) states that the Senate Bylaws may provide for "other officers" of the Senate;

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 4(b) of the FOP conditions a quorum and voting on members being "present";

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 4(e) of the FOP authorizes the Senate "to adopt such bylaws and other rules concerning its government and procedures as it considers appropriate";

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 5(b)(6) of the FOP authorizes the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Senate in "emergencies";

WHEREAS, Section 9 of the Bylaws of the Senate provides that the Executive Committee may originate amendments to the Bylaws at the suggestion of the Parliamentarian; and

WHEREAS, Section 9 of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised provides that parliamentary law may be extended to electronic meetings through a society's Bylaws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

1. That Section 1 of the Bylaws be amended by adding as paragraph (d):

   "Whenever the Chair of the Executive Committee determines that urgent circumstances of health or safety exist, the Chair may designate a regular or special meeting of the Senate to be an Electronic (virtual) Meeting in which participation will be carried out remotely and in which the verification of a quorum will occur electronically."

2. That Section 6 of the Bylaws be amended by adding as paragraph (g):

   "Notwithstanding this or any other provision in the Bylaws, when the Senate holds Electronic (virtual) Meetings, voting will be done electronically. Should technical problems occur that impede the accuracy of electronic voting or electronic roll-call voting, the procedures to be used for adopting resolutions will default to unanimous consent."

3. That Section 8 of the Bylaws be amended by adding as paragraph (d):

   "The position of the Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee is hereby created to serve temporarily as Chair in the event that the Chair is unable to perform her duties. The Vice-Chair

shall be elected by the Executive Committee to serve until a new Vice-Chair is elected. The Vice-Chair will be elected from among the members of the Executive Committee."

4. That the terms "Chairman," "Chairmen," and "Vice-Chairman" in the FOP and Bylaws shall be understood in light of the customary usage of the terms "Chair," "Chairs," and "Vice-Chair" in Senate and Assembly practice.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee
March 16, 2020

Adopted as amended by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee
March 24, 2020