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Amend the Senate By-Laws to Clarify What Passes a Motion

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Amend the Senate By-Laws to Clarify What Passes a Motion

Submitted by: Patricia Humphrey/SEC

9/29/2014

Motion:

The SEC moves that section 109.04 of the Faculty Handbook (By-Laws of the Faculty Senate), Article II, SECTION 4, be amended from

"SECTION 4. Faculty Senate meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order and in accordance with the most recent Senate Protocol."

to

"SECTION 4. Faculty Senate meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order and in accordance with the most recent Senate Protocol. Motions will pass with a majority of votes cast."

Rationale:

In Spring 2014, an issue arose when a number of Senators chose to abstain from a vote (in accordance with Robert's Rules) in a show-of-hands vote. Upon consulting Robert's Rules, a body must have on record what form of majority passes a motion: either a majority of those present, or a majority of those voting." We had no such item on record. This motion alleviates that.

The SEC has voted and recommends a motion pass with a majority of those voting; abstentions are "non votes;" if the majority of those present were decided upon, abstentions would, in effect, be votes against the motion under consideration.

SEC Response:

11/8/2014: Motion Withdrawn (The SEC has not approved this item for inclusion on the agenda.)