4-17-2014

Parliamentary Procedure at the March 19, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting

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Parliamentary Procedure at the March 19, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting

Submitted by: Richard Flynn

4/17/2014

Question:

At the March 10, 2014 meeting, in violation of Roberts Rules of Order, abstention votes were called for and counted as no votes in the vote on the BOR Policy 2.5.2 motion. In fact, the motion received a majority of ayes, which means it should have passed. What will be done to rectify this error?

Rationale:

Obviously, following parliamentary procedure in the Senate is necessary for efficiency and accountability and of concern to all faculty. See the Official Robert's Rules of Order Web Site FAQ for a discussion of "abstentions":

http://www.robertsrules.com/faq.html#6

SEC Response:

5/27/2014: On March 10, 2014 the Senate voted on a motion regarding BOR Policy 2.5.2. There were 10 ayes, 9 nays, and 9 abstentions. When the votes were tallied the abstentions were wrongly given the same weight as the nay votes and thus the motion was determined not to have passed. Even though this tally was incorrect and the motion should have passed, since no one contested the vote at that meeting, the vote stands. The only way to rectify this error is to re-vote the motion, this time not counting abstentions as votes and using paper ballots to ensure accuracy.