

**UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by:       Governance Council

Date:                   September 17, 2007

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF *CHARTER* SECTION X.1.4.3.2**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1.       That the attached proposed amendment of *The Charter of the University Senate* be approved by the University Senate.
  
2.       That this amendment be implemented for the Spring 2008 semester

**Rationale:**

The two Senate officers Vice Chair and Secretary are to be elected by majority vote, but neither the *Bylaws* nor the *Charter* indicate how to ensure a majority if there are more than two candidates for an office. When several individuals agreed to be candidates for the office of Vice Chair last spring, the Governance Council and Senate Officers discussed this omission and propose the following procedure, subsequently approved by the Senate Executive Committee, for the April 16<sup>th</sup> election of Vice Chair. It was further suggested that if the University Senate agreed to these procedures for that election, as it did, the process should be proposed to be incorporated into the Senate *Charter* (in section X.1.4.3.2) through the normal amendment process.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT (ELECTION PROCEDURES)

### X.1.4.3.2.5 Method of Election of the Vice Chair and the Secretary of the University Senate

X.1.4.3.2.5.1 As stipulated in Article II, Section 3.2 of the *Bylaws*, “The Vice Chair and the Secretary shall be elected by the previous Senate.”

X.1.4.3.2.5.2 Immediately prior to the election, candidates shall have the opportunity to address the University Senate for up to two minutes. Since candidates need not be Senators at the time of the election, another individual may speak on behalf of the candidate for up to two minutes or the candidate may provide a statement of no more than 500 words to be read to the Senate by the Secretary of the Senate.

X.1.4.3.2.5.3 Elections shall be by secret ballot of the Senate as a whole, provided that if there is only one (1) candidate and if there is no objection from the floor, the Senate may authorize a unanimous ballot be cast for that candidate.

X.1.4.3.2.5.4 If no candidate receives a majority of the ballots cast, then the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be removed from the slate, and the election will be repeated until a candidate receives a majority. In cases where no candidate has a majority and two or more candidates are tied for the lowest number of votes, all of those candidates will be removed from the slate provided that at least two candidates remain; if removing the candidates tied for lowest number of votes would result in only one candidate remaining but that person lacks a majority of the votes cast, then the chair will cast a vote for one of the candidates tied for the lowest number of votes and the other tied candidate(s) will be removed from the slate.

X.1.4.3.2.5.5 If at the end of a ballot it is determined that the remaining candidates are tied for first place, then the Chair will cast the winning vote. “The chair cannot, however, vote twice, first to make a tie and then give the casting vote.” (*Roberts’ Rules*, Article VIII, section 46)