

**Report of the Rutgers University Senate Executive Committee
On Senate Bylaws Regarding Voting Procedures for Senate Officers
For Senate Action March 2015**

This report is presented to the University Senate in accordance with established parliamentary procedure requiring previous notice to the voting body prior to voting on or enacting changes to organizational bylaws. It was presented for introduction and prior notice at the February 20, 2015 University Senate meeting, at which time it was discussed and amended. The Senate will be asked to vote on this matter at the March 27, 2015 Senate meeting.

In April 2005, during a meeting at which previously introduced, proposed changes to University Senate bylaws were to be voted on, several motions made as amendments were adopted, resulting in changes to Senate bylaws. Some of those adopted motions were entirely new content, and therefore should have been subject to the requirement of prior notice or introduction before being voted on at the next meeting.

One such element of change to the bylaws relating to the annual election of Senate officers, Executive Committee members, and board representatives, proved impossible to implement as adopted. That is:

“If the election for Senate chair is contested, then it shall be conducted separately. Nominations for vice chair and the Executive Committee will be closed only after the announcement of the results of the chair election. The same will hold for the Executive Committee nominations if the vice chair election is contested. The elections for Board of Trustees and Board of Governors representatives may be conducted simultaneously with those for officers of the Senate, but senators will be allowed to run for more than one position.”

The difficulty lies with the provision that Senators be allowed to run for more than one position. This has not been the Senate’s practice in the past, and represented a significant change to the bylaws. If the chair’s election is contested, a runoff can be conducted. The candidate who does not prevail in that election could then choose to run for vice chair, and that would require another runoff election if the candidate who does not prevail as vice chair would then wish to be considered for membership on the Senate Executive Committee. Alternatively, either unsuccessful candidate could choose to be placed in the appropriate category for election of Executive Committee members (which has been done in previous elections). This complicates the election process, but does not disable it.

However, running for multiple positions presents the possibility that one person could be elected to multiple positions, including representative to the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees. That would not be beneficial or practical.

The Senate’s University Structure and Governance Committee is currently charged with reviewing and making recommendations on the election and eligibility of Senate officers, Executive Committee members, and board representatives. When this matter was introduced to the Senate in February 2015, it included the following text: “In the meantime, the Senate Executive Committee asks that the provision that Senators may run for multiple positions in a single election be rescinded, both on procedural and practical grounds.” Discussion on the Senate floor on that date resulted in addition of the following language, to be inserted in the appropriate section of the Senate Bylaws:

Senators may not accept nomination, nor be placed on the initial ballot, for more than one position in any single election.

Resolution:

Whereas, the University Senate has considered a proposal introduced in February 2015 to amend its bylaws to prohibit Senators from running for more than one position simultaneously in the Senate's annual election of Senate leadership, Executive Committee members, and board representatives; and

Whereas, the Senate endorses this change as beneficial to the Senate's election processes, and to the Senate generally;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Senate approves amending its bylaws to replace current language allowing Senators to run for multiple positions in a single election with the following language:

Senators may not accept nomination, nor be placed on the initial ballot, for more than one position in any single election.

2014-15 University Senate Executive Committee: (as of March 27, 2015)

Ann Gould, SEBS, Faculty (Chair)

Martha Cotter, At-Large NB, Faculty (Vice Chair)

Robert Barraco, Alumni Association, Alumnus

Mark Bodrog, GS-Camden, Student

Robert Boikess, SAS-NB, Faculty

Natalie Borisovets, Libraries, Faculty

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Edmund Janniger, SPAA, Student

Amoli Joshi, SPH, Student

Jerome Langer, RWJMS, Faculty

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Robert Puhak, FAS-N, Faculty

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Vetri Velan, Engineering, Student