

PROPOSAL TO ENSURE THE ELECTION OF SENATE OFFICERS DRAWS UPON ALL DULY ELECTED SENATORS BY ESTABLISHING A COMMON SCHEDULE FOR SENATOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS BY MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES

Whereas the present system of nominations for Senate elections having different schedules and deadlines for different constituencies is somewhat confusing and results in vacancies for Senate offices, current Senators not knowing whether they have been re-elected or not, and raises questions relating to eligibility to be nominated (or self-nominate) or to run for election;

Whereas the length of time for constituency nominations and elections is relatively short and differs among constituencies in terms of dates and duration;

Whereas the relatively short time for elections could potentially negatively impact people who are traveling, out-of-town, sick, or otherwise unable to access/respond to electronic messages in a timely manner;

Whereas notices of constituency nominations and elections may be buried in a series of other unit announcements;

Whereas not having the full slate of Senators in place when Senate elections for Executive Committee members and other Senate representations are made means that Senators elected late in the cycle may not offer their candidacy or be nominated for such roles;

Therefore, a common schedule for nominations and elections should be adopted by all member constituencies to eliminate confusion, expand participation, ensure no one is disenfranchised, and that the election of Senate officers and representatives should draw upon the full cohort of all duly elected Senators; the following schedule is recommendedⁱ:

- January 6-31 : A separate notice of upcoming nominations and elections, schedule, and qualifications is sent to the leadership and membership of all constituencies.
- February 1-28: Constituency nominations (and self-nominations) are open.
- *Before* Spring break March (dates may vary by year): Voting undertaken by all constituencies.
- April 1: Results are reported to constituencies and sent to Executive Secretary of the Senate.
- April 2-8: Nominations (and self-nominations) and statements for Senate offices are submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Senate and shared with the Nominating Committee.
- April 8: Deadline for submission of nominations and statements.
- April 10: Draft of ballot for Senate offices is posted.
- 4th Friday of April: Elections are held by the Senate. Results are announced at Senate Meeting.

ⁱ Where dates fall on weekends, the first weekday following will apply.