

Special Meeting of the Elections Committee
Thursday, April 18, 2024
9:00AM – 10:00AM
Room 2328, Warwick Campus and WebEx

Agenda

1. Roll call
2. Approval of minutes from April 11, 2024 and April 16, 2024
3. Review of Nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary
4. Elections plan discussion

Minutes

Attendees:

- Mason Walmsley, Ex Officio member of assembly and secretary of Elections Committee **Present**
 - Peter Bardsley, Representative, IEHROD **Present**
 - Kara DiPaola, Representative, IEHROD **Present**
 - Naglaa Gaafar-Rego, Representative, Student Affairs – Staff Assembly Chairperson **Present**
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1. Roll Call

Meeting convened at 9:03

2. Approval of minutes from April 11, 2024 and April 16, 2024

- a. Minutes of April 11, 2024 approved.
Votes for: 3, Votes against: 0, Abstained: 1
- b. Minutes of April 16, 2024 approved.
Votes for: 3, Votes against: 0, Abstained: 1

3. Review of Nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary

Nominations remain the same as previously seen.

4. Elections plan discussion

The committee reviewed the plan outlined in last meeting held on 4/16/2024:

Division	Seats to Elect
<i>Academic Affairs</i>	2
<i>Administration & Finance</i>	6
<i>Institutional Equity & HR</i>	1
<i>President's Division</i>	1
<i>Student Affairs</i>	6
<i>Workforce Partnerships</i>	1
Grand Total	17

“To address the imbalance of term lengths expiring in one year 15 seats will be given a 2-year term. 2 seats will be given a 1-year term. All elected candidates will be assigned a number from 1-17 in an excel file. A random in-between function will then be used to assign a 1-year term to 2 seats at random.”

a. Discussion of the proposed methodology from the April 16, 2024 meeting:

While this recommendation would serve to correct issues of previous seat assignment, upon consideration of the implications, it was determined that this is not in keeping with the constitution. The result is: rather than an alternating 15/15 split as intended we’re now embedding a 17/13 split. While not optimal, the outcome doesn’t appear to cause a drastic imbalance, rendering the Assembly unable to perform its work. The constitution is clear that one-year terms were only to be assigned in the inaugural membership. Going against this cannot be recommended. Instead, the committee recommends assigning all filled vacancies, two-year terms.

The Committee discussed how clear records were not consistently kept, resulting in confusion of term end dates. This is one reason for the 17/13 split. The committee recommends, as work continues, we look to systematize tracking of membership/resignations and seat assignments to improve transparency and application of the constitution and by-laws.

b. Discussion of the historical context of the election of seats and vacancies:

A question was raised by Kara DiPaola regarding how employee vacancies are considered when determining seat distribution of the divisions within the Assembly.

Employee vacancies are not counted toward the total number of seats. This is not necessarily intentional, rather we use reports that pull active employees, rather than active positions to establish seat counts.

Kara proposed that in the future, this should be addressed once a job is posted or an RF1 is approved, it should count toward the total number of seats.

The topic of recalculating the distribution of seats came up; that it had to be done at each Special Election and regular election. Though not for this Committee to decide, Kara noted that this recalculation might be best done only once a year prior to the regular election.

The committee recommends these complexities be reviewed for consideration by the Constitution and By-laws committee.