A RESOLUTION ON VOTING AT FACULTY ASSEMBLIES (22/1)

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 3(c) of the Faculty Organization Plan provides “A quorum for any meeting shall consist of 125 members of the membership of the Assembly;”

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 3(d) of the Faculty Organization Plan provides “The Assembly shall act by affirmative vote of a majority of members present and voting, unless the action proposed is in adverse review of action taken by the Senate, in which case the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, or one representing a majority of the membership of the Assembly, whichever is the lesser, shall be required;”

WHEREAS, at the Fall 2020 online meeting of the Assembly, it was the determination of the Parliamentarian, accepted by the President as Chair of the Assembly, that while those members attending virtually (in accordance with the terms of the meeting) would be deemed present for purposes of any quorum requirement, "present" for purposes of Article II, Section 3(d) meant physical presence in a meeting room, such that the Assembly could vote only if it were permitted to do so by unanimous consent;

WHEREAS, circumstances may require that future regular and special Assemblies may be convened virtually, and technological developments have facilitated virtual participation and voting in ways that approximate physical presence, and differ meaningfully from the kind of absentee or proxy voting that a presence requirement continues to foreclose; and

WHEREAS, any regular or special Assembly meeting otherwise conforming to the Faculty Organization Plan and the Rules of Procedure for Faculty Assembly Meetings should be permitted to conduct business of the kind contemplated by those instruments without requiring the unanimous agreement of all those participating;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

That the sense of the Senate is that, whenever a regular or special Assembly meeting is called at which virtual attendance is permitted, either exclusively or as an alternative to in-person attendance, members who are virtually present—in accordance with the criteria announced for that meeting—shall be deemed present for purposes of quorum and voting.

Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom Committee
April 23, 2021

Adopted as amended by the Faculty Senate
May 7, 2021