

**B W2021.20**

**An Amendment to the Second Chapter of the Bylaws Defining Voting Procedures**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

March 3, 2021

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**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business, and recognizes the need for amendments to the Bylaws to improve its function and reflect current practices; and,

**Whereas**, clarity in voting procedures is useful for members to determine their rights within the Government; and,

**Whereas**, it is useful to remove extraneous language within the Bylaws; and,

**Whereas**, under Robert’s Rules of Order, no special privileges is granted to the method of voting by roll call; thus, it ought to have the same threshold for adoption ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) as the other voting methods.

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the Bylaws be amended in accordance with Appendix A; and,

**Be it further resolved**, that these changes take immediate effect; and,

**Be it finally resolved**, that LSA SG commits itself to democracy and transparency.

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

## Voting Procedures

2.02.00 **Definition of terms.** Unless explicitly stated to the contrary, under the condition of quorum a simple majority requires a vote of more than fifty percent (50%) of all members present and voting. A two-thirds majority requires at least two-thirds of all members present and voting vote in favor of a given motion.

2.02.01 **Quorum Requirements.** Quorum for LSA SG shall be the attendance of at least a simple majority of the voting members of LSA SG then in office. A quorum is required for any vote of the Government. Otherwise, LSA SG has authority only to discuss Government matters or adjourn.

2.02.02 **Passage of a Motion.** Unless otherwise stated, a motion requires the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the LSA SG for passage.

2.02.03 **Voting Rights of the Chair.** Robert's Rules states that the Chair shall abstain from voting except when his or her vote would alter the outcome of the vote under any voting method. The *chairperson Chair* shall vote last on any roll-call vote if there is a tie. The *chairperson Chair* retains the option of deferring their vote. The previous chairperson must announce their vote anytime prior to the Amendment and Approval of Previous Minutes during the next General Meeting. The result of their decision shall be included in the Previous Minutes before they may be approved. *The voting rights of the chair are not limited when the vote is taken by secret ballot.*

2.02.04 **Voting.** Voting shall ordinarily be by the show of hands, with the Chair ~~of the General Meeting~~ calling for the votes, first of those in favor, then of those opposed, then of those abstaining. The Chair shall then announce the number of those in favor, those opposed, and those abstaining. Results shall be determined by a majority vote, except in cases requiring more than a simple majority vote, without taking into account abstentions. Abstentions shall not count towards the results of a vote. For a vote to be official, at least one fifth of the entire voting assembly *present* must be either for or against the motion. In the case where this threshold is not met, then the Government must either re-vote by secret ballot or table the matter until a future time. The Secretary shall record the results in the official minutes of the meeting.

2.02.05 **Methods of Voting.** *The following manners of voting shall be the sole methods used within the body:*

- (a) *By a show of hands or placards;*
- (b) *By standing;*
- (c) *By secret ballot;*
- (d) *By roll call;*
- (e) *By voice vote or acclamation;*
- (f) *By unanimous consent, where any opposition prevents a vote of this sort from being adopted;*
- (g) *By division of the assembly. This method may further be used whenever doubt exists over the result of a vote taken by another method.*

2.02.06 **Roll Call Votes.** A roll call vote shall be taken when *a motion to do so (to call the question by roll call vote) has been passed by 2/3 of the Government. a simple majority of the voting members present vote to do so.* The Secretary (or the individual designated to serve in that capacity ~~during a particular meeting~~) shall proceed to read the names of each voting member present and record their vote

as each person announces it. If the vote is tied *or if the vote of Chair could impact the result of the vote*, the Secretary shall call upon the Chair to cast their vote, at which point they have a choice to cast a vote immediately or defer their vote until the next General meeting (refer to 2.02.03). The Chair ~~of the meeting~~ shall announce the results.