

Proposition: 30-15/16

Title: A Proposition to Authorize the Senate Leadership Committee to Elect a Vice Chair *pro tem*

Date Submitted: 4/26/2016

Sponsor(s): S. H. Munson-McGee (A&S)

Proposed Committee: Emergency Legislation

Assigned Committee:

Prior Approvals: N/A

Proposal: It is proposed to allow the Senate Leadership Committee (SLC) to elect a Vice Chair *pro tem* when, in the opinion of a majority of a quorum of the SLC, the Vice Chair will not be able to fulfill the duties of their office for an extended period of time. The election of a Vice Chair *pro tem* must follow the same rules and procedures as the election of the Vice Chair. The term of service for the Vice Chair *pro tem* shall start as specified by the SLC and shall end either when, in the opinion of the SLC, the Vice Chair can resume the duties of the office or at the end of the current Vice Chair's term, whichever occurs first. This authority will be in effect until the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, until the Faculty Senate governing documents are changed to establish this authority, or it is revoked by action of the Faculty Senate, whichever occurs first.

Rationale: The current Faculty Senate Constitution only allows for four officers: the Chair, Vice Chair, Parliamentarian, and Recording Secretary. When the Chair is unable to execute the duties of the office, it is the responsibility of the Vice Chair to take over those duties. As the Constitution and Bylaws are currently written, there is no provision for someone to take over the role of the Vice Chair should the Vice Chair be unable to perform their duties (for example, when acting as Chair for an extended period of time). This proposal provides for a short-term solution to this problem by allowing the Senate Leadership Committee to follow the same rules and procedures required to elect a Vice Chair to elect a Vice Chair *pro tem*.

It is strongly encouraged that the Senate considers revising their Bylaws to make this a permanent change.

This is a timely and necessary change in light of the current situation in which the Chair-elect, Christopher Brown, will become the Chair on Tuesday, May 17 and an individual to be selected by the SLC on May 5 (the Vice Chair-elect) will become Vice Chair. However, due to a health issue, it is anticipated that Chris will be unable to assume the duties of the Chair for at least 6 months. Thus, on May 17 the Vice Chair-elect will become the Vice Chair and then immediately become the acting Chair. This will leave the Senate without a Vice Chair for an extended period of time. Since it is impractical for a single individual to simultaneously serve as both Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate, electing a Vice Chair *pro tem* would provide for the necessary Senate leadership.