

CHAPTER 3: MEMBERSHIP VOTES, ELECTION AND REFERENDA

3.1 ELECTIONS:

3.1.1 ELECTION COMMITTEE:

3.1.1.1 An Election Committee shall be formed at the last meeting in November each year. (46/97)

3.1.1.2 This committee shall direct nominations, campaigns, and elections. They shall set all relevant dates and make decisions for the election campaign.

3.1.1.3 The Board shall appoint at least two ICC members to serve on the committee.

3.1.1.4 This committee shall function until Elections have been completed.

3.1.1.5 Members of the Election Committee may not run for ICC President.

3.1.1.6 Timeline: The election committee shall ensure that the new ICC President is named by the date of the Winter Annual Meeting. (46/97) (70/04)

3.1.2 HOUSE RESPONSIBILITY: Generally, the Board Member from the house is responsible for conducting the election in that house. However, the Board Member may appoint someone else to conduct the election. (For members voting in the office the Director of Member Services will be responsible). This person is responsible for:

- A.** Posting notices from the election committee.
- B.** Picking up the ballots if they are not delivered and distributing these ballots to house members.
- C.** Collecting ballots and returning them on time to the ICC office or other designated place.

3.1.3 NOMINATIONS:

3.1.3.1 Nomination sheets with a copy of the duties of the President (Bylaw 4.1 and SR 1.2.2) shall be sent by the election committee to each house to be posted. A definite date shall be set by the Election Committee for the closing of nominations by mid-January. Notice of the date of closing of nominations shall be published in the Weekly Reporter. (46/97)

3.1.3.2 Candidates must have a valid contract for the following Fall/Winter term before the election. Only members of the ICC can nominate someone and only members of the ICC can be nominated. Nominations by non-ICC members or for non-ICC members will be discarded as invalid. ICC employees covered by the Uniform Working Conditions Contract (UWCC) shall not be eligible to run. Other ICC employees who are also members may have other restrictions (see Bylaw 2.7). Members may nominate themselves. (see the official nomination form) (46/97)

3.1.3.3 The Election Committee will secure the acceptance of the nomination from each nominee before the nominee is announced officially as a candidate.

3.1.3.4 The ICC President serves a term of one year (see Bylaw 5.2 & Bylaw 5.8) Therefore, candidates must run for a full year.

3.1.4 CAMPAIGN:

3.1.4.1 Speeches: The committee shall schedule a series of campaign speeches for each candidate. One speech should be scheduled for each candidate in each boarding house, including the house of the candidate. These speeches are best given immediately after dinner, so that the candidate may have a chance to speak with the members during the meal and after the speech.

3.1.4.2 The Election Committee shall post the following in each house immediately after all nominations are received and accepted:

- A.** a list of candidates;
- B.** a complete campaign schedule and
- C.** a copy of the duties of the President taken from the Bylaw 4.2 and Standing Rule 1.2.2 of the ICC. (see sample campaign schedule)

3.1.4.3 No two candidates may campaign in the same house at the same time.

3.1.4.4 There shall be no campaigning on election day(s).

3.1.4.5 Campaign posters and the like shall be allowed.

3.1.4.6 Candidate Statements: Candidates shall be entitled to have statements included with the ballots or posted in the houses at the time of the voting.

3.1.5 ELECTION:

3.1.5.1 The President will be chosen using the method known as Approval Voting. Each ballot will include the names of all candidates. The ballot will also include space for write-ins. If the name on a ballot is unclear, a majority of the Election Committee must agree on its interpretation. Write-in votes for candidates who are not ICC members are invalid. Each voter will be able to indicate on their ballot which candidates they “approve.” Voters may approve of as many candidates as they like. The winner of the election is the candidate who is approved of by the greatest number of voters.

3.1.5.2 The Election Committee shall post notices of the election not less than five days before the opening of voting in all houses and the ICC office. The notice shall detail date and time voting shall be allowed and the candidates for election. When possible, this notice shall also be published in the weekly reporter.

3.5.5.3 The voting period shall be at least 2 days and shall not begin and end on the same weekend.

- 3.5.5.4** The Ballots will be picked up by the house presidents or appointed representatives or delivered to the houses. Ballots will be distributed according to the number of members (one member = one ballot).
- 3.5.5.5** The representative from each house is responsible for seeing that a fair election is held in the house. The representative must distribute and collect ballots and return them to the ICC office or other designated place.
- 3.5.5.6** The Election committee shall set a time for the polls to close and a time for the ballots to be turned in. If the ballots have not been turned in on time, unless the Election Committee has been notified of a delay by a house, those ballots will be forfeited. House Presidents should be reminded of this time the day preceding the election by the election committee.
- 3.5.5.7** Non-Resident Members: Members who have shares but who do not currently reside or board in ICC houses shall be entitled to vote at the ICC office.

3.1.6 COUNTING OF BALLOTS:

- 3.1.6.1** Ballots shall not be counted at the houses. All ballots will be pooled and counted the same day as the election by the election committee. The ballots shall be counted twice to ensure accuracy.
- 3.1.6.2** Any indication that corresponds to a candidate will suffice as a true and correct choice. If a member changes his/her mind, erasures must be complete or should the choice be made in ink, a notation may be written by the member indicating that a choice was changed. Any mark that clearly indicates a member's choice is valid. For example, a name circled, an "x" next to the name or a check mark are acceptable. If there is a dispute a ballot will be valid only if a majority of the election committee agrees on the choice.
- 3.1.6.3** An approval may be invalidated for the following:
- A.** Voting for anyone other than a candidate or an eligible ICC member
 - B.** A vote cast by an ineligible voter
 - C.** Voting for any but the run-off candidates in a run-off election (see SR 3.1.7)
 - D.** Turning the ballots in after the deadline set by the election committee
- 3.1.6.4** No winning candidates shall be announced until all ballots of the entire election have been run off and counted.
- 3.1.6.5** Ballots shall be saved by the Election Committee for one month after the date of the election.

3.1.7 RUN-OFF ELECTION

- 3.1.7.1** In the event of a tie, the election committee shall schedule a run-off for as soon as possible and within one week. In the time interval between the

elections there shall be no additional campaigning, nor shall the number of votes obtained in the original election be announced until the run-off is finished.

3.1.7.2 Election procedures are the same except only candidates approved by the greatest number of voters will appear on the ballot with no space for write-ins.

3.1.8 RE-COUNT: Any member may request a recount of the ballots. The member requesting the re-count and the election committee will be present. If there is a disagreement between the member and the election committee, the board will be the arbiter of any disputes.

3.1.9 REPORT TO THE BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP: The election committee shall report to the Board at the first meeting after the election is completed. This report shall include the results by candidate divided by house, any comments on ballots by members and any other relevant details. The results shall be official when accepted by the Board of Directors.

3.1.10 INVALIDATION: Only the board of directors may invalidate an election if procedural flaws were made. In this case, a second election must be held.

3.1.11 INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT: The new President shall take office the day after the last scheduled day of finals of the Winter term of the University of Michigan according to the school of Literature Science and the Arts. In the event of a mid-year election the president shall take office immediately after the announcement of the winning candidate.

3.2 REFERENDUM:

3.2.1 GENERAL: These rules shall further define the procedures for referendum as specified in Bylaw 7.6.

3.2.2 DEFINITION: A referendum is a poll of the membership or special meeting conducted by paper ballot generally over a several day period with voting by members at their particular house. A referendum is subject to Bylaw Chapter 7.

3.2.3 REFERENDUM COMMITTEE: The referendum committee shall:

- A.** Post notices of the referendum of the time, date and issue to be decided. When possible, this shall be published in the weekly reporter.
- B.** Have the ballots and information printed
- C.** Distribute the referendum to the houses.
- D.** Count the ballots and certify the results
- E.** Be composed of 6 people

3.2.4 WRITING THE REFERENDUM: The decision to have a referendum shall happen in one of two ways:

3.2.4.1 BOARD INITIATED REFERENDUM: The Board or an ICC committee may desire a referendum. If a committee desires a referendum, they shall write the ballot, background and pros and cons and place these on the Board agenda through the normal channels. If the Board desires a referendum, the board shall instruct a standing committee to write the

referendum or form an ad-hoc committee to write the referendum.
(60/97)

3.2.4.2 PETITION INITIATED REFERENDUM: A petition signed by at least 10% of the membership of the ICC and presented to the ICC President. A valid petition must include background, ballot, pros and cons, names of the authors of the petition. (48/96) (60/97)

3.2.5 BALLOT, BACKGROUND AND PROS AND CONS SPECIFICATIONS:

3.2.5.1 BACKGROUND: The background shall consist of sufficient information for members to make an informed decision. The background shall be clear and shall accurately present information to the members. Vague wording will not aid members in making a decision and shall not be used.

3.2.5.2 BALLOT:

- A. The ballot may contain more than one question. Each question will have its own approval.
- B. Each question shall allow a choice of only “yes” or “no” on issues requiring approval or shall have the choices listed for other issues. There shall be no choice of “abstain.”
- C. Each ballot shall include along with the question, the following question: “Does this ballot fairly reflect the opposing views on this issue?” (60/97)

3.2.5.3 PROS AND CONS: The pros and cons shall contain arguments in favor of and against the question. The purpose of this is to show legitimate reasons why the question should or should not be passed. While arguments against or in favor of a question are opinion in nature they should not contain inaccuracies or misleading statements. The board shall be the final arbiter of what is acceptable and what is not. This information may be in paragraph form or “bullets” of information.

3.2.6 CALLING FOR THE REFERENDUM:

3.2.6.1 BOARD INITIATED REFERENDUM: Once the draft referendum (background, ballot and pros and cons) has been written, the referendum committee shall post the draft not less than four days before the board meeting where the referendum is to be officially called. A notice with the draft should indicate that members may bring any concerns with the draft to the attention of their President or the Board of Directors. The board shall officially call the referendum by approving the ballot, background, pros and cons and date and times for voting (48/96) (60/97)

3.2.6.2 PETITION INITIATED REFERENDUM: A referendum shall officially be called when the President receives a petition signed by 10% of the membership. The President will choose a referendum committee to conduct the referendum as specified in 3.23. (60/97)

3.2.7 VOTING

- 3.2.7.1** The referendum committee shall post the final text of the referendum and the date and time of voting not less than seven days before the close of voting. When possible, this information shall also be published in the Weekly Reporter. (48/96) (60/97)
- 3.2.7.2** The ballots will be picked up by the house presidents or appointed representatives or delivered to the houses according to the number of members (one member = one ballot).
- 3.2.7.3** The representative from each house is responsible for seeing that a fair election is held in the house. The representative shall distribute and collect ballots, and return the votes cast to the office or other location as designated by the referendum committee.
- 3.2.7.4** The referendum committee shall set a time for the polls to close and a time for the ballots to be turned in. If the ballots have not been turned in on time, unless the referendum committee has been notified of a delay by a house, ballots not turned in will be forfeited. When possible, house Presidents should be reminded of this time the day preceding the election by the referendum committee.
- 3.2.7.5** Non-Resident Members: Members who have shares but who do not currently reside or board in ICC houses shall be entitled to vote at the ICC office.

3.2.8 COUNTING OF BALLOTS:

- 3.2.8.1** Ballots should not be counted at the houses. All ballots will be pooled and counted the same day. The counting of ballots will be done by the referendum committee. The ballots shall be counted twice to ensure accuracy.
- 3.2.8.2** Any indication that corresponds to a choice will suffice as a true and correct choice. If a member changes his/her mind, erasures must be complete or should the choice be made in ink; a notation may be written by the member indicating that a choice was changed. Any mark that clearly indicates a member's choice is valid. For example, a choice circled, an "x" next to the choice or a check mark are acceptable so long as no other marks are on the paper and more than one choice is not marked for each question. If there is a dispute a ballot will be valid only if a majority of the referendum committee agrees on the choice. If no choice is indicated then on that question, then it is assumed that the member does not wish to vote on that question.
- 3.2.8.3** A majority of valid votes cast is required for passage of each question. A referendum shall be invalid unless at least 10% of the membership casts valid ballots. Note: Membership includes everyone who has shares at the time of the referendum. (see section SR 4.2)
- 3.2.8.4** Vote on Fairness question: The referendum shall be valid only if a majority of the members of the ICC or two thirds of those voting on that

question, whichever is smaller, answer that question in the affirmative.
An invalid referendum shall be void as if it did not occur.

3.2.8.5 Ballots shall be saved by the referendum committee for one month after the date of the referendum.

3.2.9 RE-COUNT: Any member may request a recount of the ballots. The member requesting the re-count and the referendum committee will be present. If there is a disagreement between the member and the referendum committee, the board will be the arbiter of any disputes.

3.2.10 REPORT TO THE BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP: The referendum committee shall report to the Board at the first meeting after the referendum is completed. This report shall include the results by question divided by house, any comments on ballots by members and any other relevant details. The results shall be official when accepted by the Board of Directors.

3.2.11 INVALIDATION: The board of directors may invalidate a referendum if procedural flaws were made. Such flaws must have a material effect on the outcome. Errors in procedure or failure to receive the ballots from one house are not in and of themselves sufficient to invalidate a referendum. In the event the referendum is invalidated, a second referendum must be held to decide the issue.
(60/97)