

# ELECTION BYLAWS of the INTER-PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL

For the purpose of establishing governance rules for the election of new officers to the Inter-  
Professional Council

Approved by Resolution of the Senate: October 5, 2009

Updated March 11th, 2012 Senate

Updated November 19th, 2018 Senate

Updated March 1, 2020 Senate

## **Article I: Officer Positions Elected**

The positions of President, Executive Vice President, and Secretary are elected positions.

## **Article II: Election Procedures**

### **A. Elections Chair: The Executive Vice President shall serve as the Elections Chair.**

1. In the event that the Executive Vice President is seeking an elected office, they shall recuse themselves from the position, and the Executive Committee will nominate a replacement. That nomination must be approved by a simple majority of the Senate at the third-to-last Senate meeting prior to the Election.
2. The Elections Chair shall not be permitted to vote in any election except when necessary to break a tie between two candidates.

### **B. Timeline**

1. Nominations shall open during the third-to-last Senate meeting for the Spring semester.
2. Candidates can nominate themselves, or other senators may nominate a potential candidate.
3. If a candidate receives a nomination from someone else, they must confirm they wish to seek the elected office before being included among the nominees. The Election Chair shall ensure that a member not present at the meeting but nominated for office consents to the nomination prior to the Elections.
4. In order to be eligible, a candidate must be currently serving as an IPC Senator and must be enrolled in a professional program for the entirety of the academic year they will be serving their elected term.
5. Any eligible candidate may be nominated and run for more than one office. However, once a candidate is elected to an office, that candidate shall no longer be able to run for any other office.
6. Once elected to an office, the winning candidate shall accept that office. If the candidate fails to do so, that candidate shall be disqualified from any other elections that year.
7. Nominations will remain open until 11:59pm EST of the Sunday directly preceding the Elections.
8. Any documents provided by the candidates in support of their platform must be submitted to the Elections Chair by 11:59pm EST of the Tuesday directly preceding the Elections
9. The Elections Chair shall ensure that all nominations are finalized and published to all the senators, along with any supporting documents, by 11:59pm EST of the Wednesday directly preceding the Elections.

### **C. Elections**

1. Officers shall be elected in the following order: President, then Executive Vice President, and then Secretary.
2. Immediately prior to the election for each position, each candidate for a particular office will have the opportunity to address the Inter-Professional Council for a maximum of five minutes. After all candidates for a position have spoken, the senators may ask questions targeted at all candidates through the Elections Chair.

Each candidate shall have the opportunity to respond to each question. The Elections Chair may set time limits on the length of the question period or on the length of any single response. Such limits must be the same for all candidates for a particular office and be made known to them at the beginning of the meeting at which elections are held.

3. Voting shall be by secret ballot in contested elections and by Objection to Consent in uncontested elections. All forty-eight senators may participate in the Elections. For any one election, quorum shall be a simple majority of all senators in the IPC Senate. Quorum shall be determined by counting the number of senators present at the Elections meeting and the senators who have cast absentee ballots. Write-in votes and blank ballots shall be invalid and not counted in the total.
4. Senators who cannot attend the Elections meeting shall not be precluded from voting. The Elections Chair shall receive absentee ballots for contested elections starting the Thursday directly preceding the Elections and before 11:59pm EST of the Saturday directly preceding the Elections.
  - a. Absentee ballots for contested elections will include a ranking of the preferred candidates under a first-choice, second-choice, and third-choice model. Senators will only be permitted to rank their top three choices for any election.
  - b. In descending order, absentee ballots shall be included in vote totals. First-preferences shall be disregarded where the candidate has either withdrawn from the election or failed to make the run-off election for the position. Second-preferences shall be disregarded for the same reasons. If third-preferences are also disregarded for the same reasons, then the absentee ballot will be discarded.
5. A simple majority of those senators voting is required to elect an officer.
  - a. In the event that more than two candidates run for an office and no candidate receives a majority, then at the same meeting the senators shall vote again between the two candidates receiving the most votes. Prior to any additional voting, the two candidates receiving the most votes will each have two minutes to re-address the senators, and an additional question may be asked of both candidates. All absentee ballots that rank a run-off candidate as one of the three preferred candidates shall be counted.
  - b. For any vote between two candidates where the results end in a tie after considering the absentee ballots, the Elections Chair shall be permitted to break the tie.