

UNIVERSITY SENATE

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by: Governance Council

Date: March 8th, 2017

**FACULTY BYLAWS AMENDMENT DEFINING QUORUM FOR SENATE
MEETINGS**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

- That the proposed amendment of the Faculty Bylaws below be adopted
- That these amendments go into effect immediately

Current Faculty Bylaws:

Article II. Section 7 – Calendar and Meetings of the Senate

7.6 The quorum of the Senate shall be 50 percent of its membership plus one. In all other matters of procedure, *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be followed, except where the Senate has established a rule of its own.

Proposed Revision to the Faculty Bylaws:

Article II. Section 7 – Calendar and Meetings of the Senate

7.6 The quorum of the Senate shall be 50 percent of its **voting** membership plus one. In all other matters of procedure, *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be followed, except where the Senate has established a rule of its own.

Rationale:

This bill seeks to clarify the confusion about what should constitute quorum that was generated after the passage of Bylaws amendment 1415-10BA that removed voting privileges from individuals who, by virtue of their administrative title, hold *ex-officio* positions on the Senate and its Councils and Committees. After that amendment, the membership of the Senate became composed of voting members and *ex-officio* non-voting members. Retaining the prior quorum definition as a simple majority of the membership has had the consequence of requiring the presence of more than 50% plus one of voting members to conduct Senate business. But since non-voting members cannot vote, their presence or their absence at a Senate meeting should not prevent the Senate from conducting its regular business. Therefore, it is hereby proposed that quorum should be based on the number of **voting** members of the Senate, whose presence is required for conducting Senate business. That is, quorum should be a simple majority of voting members of the Senate.