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.