

# SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SENATE AND THE TWIN CITIES CAMPUS ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1973 12:00

TWIN CITIES - MAYO AUDITORIUM  
AND BY TELEPHONE HOOK - UP  
DULUTH-REGENTS ROOM, 520 ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING  
MORRIS - 17 CAMDEN HALL  
CROOKSTON - 114 AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

The voting membership of the University Senate totals 205, including the president, 145 members of the faculty, 59 students and the Consultative Committee. For a quorum, a majority of the voting membership (103) must be present. Amendments to the constitution require advance notice and 137 affirmative votes. Amendments to the bylaws require advance publication and 103 affirmative votes. Other actions require only a simple majority of the members present and voting. The members of the all-University Administrative Committee are ex officio non-voting members of the University Senate.

Any member of the faculty and any student eligible to vote for senators may be admitted to meetings of the University Senate and shall be entitled to speak at the discretion of the University Senate. Only elected members of the University Senate, the members of the Senate Consultative Committee, and, in case of a tie, the chairman, shall be entitled to vote.

Any representative may designate any elected alternate from his institute, college, school, or student constituency as the alternate to serve in his place and stead by written notice to the clerk of the Senate prior to the commencement of any meeting of the University Senate.

#### ATTENDANCE RECORD

A roll of elected and ex officio members will be circulated during the meeting. Members will please check their names to indicate their presence. If the list misses you, please stop after the meeting to check your name. The roll, after adjournment, will be at the rostrum.

An attendance record for nonmembers will also be circulated and will be on the rostrum after the meeting.

A summary of the attendance of members elected for the current academic year will be included in the June minutes.

#### I. REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND RULES

##### Reported for Action

The Committee on Business and Rules recommends passage of the following motion: Amend Article VIII, Section 1, of the Senate Constitution by striking the words "two-thirds"

##### Effect

The section will then read:  
Amendments to this Constitution shall be approved by a majority of all voting members of the University Senate at a regular or special meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been distributed, in writing, to the persons and in the manner provided in Article III, Section 6, for distribution of the Senate agenda, at least 10 days prior to the date of the vote on the approval of the proposed amendment. Such amendments after adoption shall then be submitted to the Regents for approval.

##### Reasons

The November 7th meeting has been called by resolution of the University Senate on May 24, 1973, and is "primarily devoted to amending the amendment clause..." The present clause requires (in addition to Regents' approval) affirmative votes by two-thirds of all voting members of the Senate. Such votes have been nearly impossible to attain at previous meetings of the Senate:

Date of Meeting	Fraction of Voting Members Signing the Roll
12-4-69	.66
3-12-70	.55
5-28-70	.63
6-5-70	.52
12-3-70	.59
12-10-70	.52
3-11-71	.52
5-27-71	.59
12-2-71	.75
1-12-72	.50
2-8-72	.56
3-9-72	.55
5-25-72	.52
11-30-72	.61
1-18-73	.52
4-19-73	.50
5-24-73	.46

There has been only one meeting of the Senate at which there were enough members to pass a constitutional amendment.

On March 9, 1972, the Senate tried to amend Art. III, Sec. 4c. of the Constitution to improve the definition of eligibility for graduate students and students in General Extension Division. In spite of an unanimous vote to amend, the amendment failed because there were not two-thirds of the members present.

There are many problems facing the Senate, the solutions to which require constitutional amendment. These include the redefinition of eligible students; the reexamination of delegate-constituent ratios which is required by the bylaws; the status of the administrative committee.

Thus, there are problems requiring amendment, and the present amendment procedure is unworkable.

#### A COMMENT ABOUT AMENDMENTS TO THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED ABOVE

The Committee would like to clarify in advance the procedure for making changes in its proposed amendment. This procedure is complicated by the constitutional requirement for 10 day prior notice. The guiding principle is that no amendment may be offered at the meeting which increases the modification of Art. VIII beyond that proposed above, unless it satisfies the provision for 10 day notice. (For example, a motion from the floor to require a 53 percent majority would be permissible; one to require a 70 percent majority of a 48 percent affirmative vote would not be permitted.)

RUSSELL HOBBIE  
Chairman

#### A SUBSTITUTE MOTION CONCERNING AMENDMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE CONSTITUTION to be presented at the November 7 meeting

by Leonid Hurwicz and Mahmood Zaidi:

Amend the first three lines of Article VIII, Section 1, of the Senate Constitution to read:

"An amendment to this Constitution shall be approved either by a two-thirds majority of all voting members of the University Senate at a regular or special meeting, or by a majority of all voting members of the Senate at two meetings, the second of which shall be the next regular meeting, provided that at least two-thirds of those present and voting at each of these two meetings shall have voted in favor of the amendment, and provided the proposed amendment has been distributed, in writing..."

Comment. The objective of this proposal is to meet the very real problem posed by the Committee on Business and Rules and to facilitate the amendment process despite the usual lack of the two-thirds quorum, but at the same time to provide safeguards against important constitutional changes being voted by unrepresentative transient majorities. The proposal is intended to fit between the Committee recommendation and the existing provisions for amending procedures.

#### II. REPORT OF THE CAMPUS COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND RULES 1. Reported for Action

At the meeting of the Twin Cities Campus Assembly to be convened immediately after the meeting of the University Senate on November 7, the Committee on Business and Rules will recommend passage of the following motion: Amend Article VI, Section 1, of the Assembly Constitution by striking the words "two-thirds."

##### A COMMENT ABOUT AMENDMENTS TO THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED ABOVE

The Committee would like to clarify in advance the procedure for making changes in its proposed amendment. This procedure is complicated by the constitutional requirement for 10 day prior notice. The guiding principle is that no amendment may be offered at the meeting which increases the modification of Art. VI beyond that proposed above, unless it satisfies the provision for 10 day notice. (For example, a motion from the floor to require a 53 percent majority would be permissible; one to require a 70 percent majority or a 48 percent affirmative vote would not be permitted.)

RUSSELL HOBBIE  
Chairman

#### A SUBSTITUTE MOTION CONCERNING AMENDMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTION to be presented at the November 7 meeting

by Leonid Hurwicz and Mahmood Zaidi:

Amend the first three lines of Article VI, Section 1, of the Assembly Constitution to read:

"An amendment to this Constitution shall be approved either by a two-thirds majority of all voting members of the Assembly at a regular or special meeting, or by a majority of all voting members of the Assembly at two meetings, the second of which shall be the next regular meeting, provided that at least two-thirds of those present and voting at each of these two meetings shall have voted in favor of the amendment, and provided the proposed amendment has been distributed, in writing..."

Comment. The objective of this proposal is to meet the very real problem posed by the Committee on Business and Rules and to facilitate the amendment process despite the usual lack of the two-thirds quorum, but at the same time to provide safeguards against important constitutional changes being voted by unrepresentative transient majorities. The proposal is intended to fit between the Committee recommendation and the existing provisions for amending procedures.