

To: The University Senate
From: Faculty Affairs Committee
Subject: Convening During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption

Rationale: COVID-19 is an infectious disease that can cause long-term health consequences or fatality in some individuals who contract it. It can also be spread by individuals who are not showing symptoms and do not know they have the virus. Per CDC, FDA, and WHO guidelines, large, extended indoor gatherings are best avoided, particularly if they include a significant number of persons with elevated risk factors for the disease. The Bylaws of the University Senate do not specifically address remote meetings in emergency situations, but no just parliamentary principle suggests Senators should risk their lives and the lives of others to meet in person when reasonable alternative means are available. Further, accessibility best practices make even a socially-distanced meeting for a body of this size impractical, even were a venue to be available.

Proposal: Because Purdue, local, state, or federal guidelines around the COVID-19 pandemic suggest that convening the full Senate in person is inadvisable, the Senate will convene remotely using Zoom or a similar platform. The Secretary of Faculties will arrange for the remote meetings and convey any necessary information to Senators, advisors, and guests.

Voting, except in cases of unanimous consent, will take place electronically according to the will of the body or specific motions. Voting may be administered via Zoom polling, Qualtrics survey, email, or any other reasonable means that is acceptable to the Senate body. A senator may request a secret ballot in accordance with existing bylaws. Voting will be administered by the Secretary of Faculties. This shall be in effect through the end of Spring semester 2021, but may be continued for an additional semester at a time or suspended by vote of the Senate.

Committee Votes:

For:

Charles Bouman
Min Chen
Sharon Christ
Bruce Craig
Alexander Francis
Stephen Hooser
Ralph Kaufmann
Jozef Kokini
David Koltick
Seokcheon Lee
John Yaninek

Against:

Abstained:

Absent:

Brian Richert