

Motions for Electronic Voting to be presented to YUFA Executive

Motions:

- I. I move to approve electronic voting in elections and by-elections to confirm YUFA Officers and Stewards' Council.
- II. I move to approve electronic voting for the following specified YUFA actions: approval of the annual budget and fee structure, strike votes, ratification of a settlement, and amendments to the YUFA Constitution. Electronic voting will be initiated within five business days of such motions being made and members will have five business days to vote.
- III. I move to approve electronic voting on any issue in Annual, Regular, and Special YUFA general meetings if a simple majority vote to do so. However, electronic voting will not include motions concerning approval of agenda, minutes of agenda, and motions to adjourn.

Rationale: Electronic voting is an efficient, increasingly common method of implementing fully democratic and fair processes in unions and self-governing bodies. Having a voice on important matters that affect one's life is a right, not a privilege that is awarded or earned. In principle, the inability to be present for a physical vote should not incidentally restrict one's right to participate in a general vote. For instance, at any given time, a substantial fraction of YUFA members may be unable to attend scheduled YUFA meetings for a variety of reasons such as sabbatical leave, teaching commitments, off-campus activities, and family responsibilities. Absence for any cause is not sufficient reason to deny this basic right to vote regarding union affairs. Accommodations will be made for those who do not have access to the Internet and who request such accommodation. No proxy voting will be permitted when electronic votes are taken.

There are ample precedents in academic settings of Faculty Associations that use electronic voting: University of British Columbia, University of Illinois at Urbana Champagne, University of Alberta, and University of Minnesota, to name some. In fact, the practice is sufficiently prevalent that there is at least one Internet-based polling company that specializes in managing academic voting processes (www.evot.ca). However these companies can be expensive. The Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies has, for a number of years, used (at no cost) an electronic voting system set up by York's CNS to vote on Faculty committees. Voters need a York e-mail address and a Passport York account (very easy to set up) in order to log on. The system allows only one vote per individual.

As part of this initiative, it is proposed that the YUFA Executive strike a committee or taskforce to propose a suitable procedure for the implementation of electronic voting. It is requested that implementation of electronic voting, as described above, should occur within 30 days of a positive vote.

Approval of the above motion will require the following amendments, in principle, to the YUFA Constitution and By-Laws:

(Current wording that has been deleted is struck-through and proposed modifications are in bold)

YUFA Constitution

In Article 3.5 General Meeting

3.5b. Two Trustees shall be ~~elected~~ **nominated** from the floor of the Annual General Meeting **and elected through electronic voting** ~~for the purpose of assisting the members of the Association in performing their duties under this clause.~~ **Accommodations will be made for those who do not have access to the Internet and who request such accommodation. No proxy voting is permitted. The Trustees will assist** the members of the Association in performing their duties under this clause. **The elected** Trustees ~~elected at the Meeting~~ shall prepare an Annual Report for the following year's Meeting that reviews the Association's activities and recommend improvements in the methods of operation.

3.5c The annual budget and fee structure shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and presented to the general membership at the Annual meeting. Assent shall be given by a simple majority decision of those members ~~present and voting~~ **electronically subsequent to the meeting. Accommodations will be made for those who do not have access to the Internet and who request such accommodation. No proxy voting is permitted.** ~~Voting shall be by show of hands.~~

In Article 8 Elections and Recall

8. 1 General Election

Elections **by electronic voting** shall take place before the end of December of the year before candidates are to assume office. Elected candidates shall assume office on 1st June.

Accommodations will be made for those who do not have access to the Internet and who request such accommodation. No proxy voting is permitted.

In Article 9 Collective bargaining and job actions

9.2 Ratification of substantive change to or renewal of Collective Agreement

The Executive Committee shall seek ratification of a contract or a substantive change in an existing contract by an **electronic** ~~secret~~ ballot procedure ~~(no proxies)~~. Such ratification may take place only **during following** a General or Special General Meeting ~~or following such a meeting~~ in which the matter has been discussed. ~~Voting shall continue for a minimum of four~~ ~~four~~ **Assent shall be given by a simple majority of those members of the bargaining unit voting. Accommodations will be made for those who do not have access to the Internet and who request such accommodation. No proxy voting is permitted.**

9.3 Job action

The executive committee must seek authorization from the bargaining unit before the imposition of any strike action or other sanction against the Employer. Voting shall be by **secret electronic ballot (no proxies)** held ~~on-site~~ subsequent to a General or Special meeting, ~~and/or at such other locations as a General membership meeting held prior to the balloting shall authorize.~~ If such meeting is held during the period from 16th May to 31st August inclusive, ~~voting shall be by secret mail ballot.~~ **Accommodations will be made for those who do not have access to the Internet and who request such accommodation.** Where a mail ballot is used, at least three weeks from the mailing of the last ballot shall be allowed before ballots are counted. Assent shall be given by a simple majority of those voting. Notice of such a vote, indicating the nature of the choices to be available on the ballot, shall be sent to voters at least one week prior to the balloting. **No proxy voting is permitted.**

Article 11 Amendments

The Stewards Council may submit to any General Meeting for approval, amendments to this Constitution. Such proposals submitted to the Executive Committee by fifty or more members of the Association must be submitted to the general membership for consideration. Assent of two-thirds of those members ~~who vote present and voting~~ shall carry amendments. Notice of motion to amend the Constitution shall be given in writing in the notice of the General Meeting. Amendments to the Constitution shall not be presented to Special General Meetings. Voting shall be by ~~show of hands~~ **electronic voting. Accommodations will be made for those who do not have access to the Internet and who request such accommodation. No proxy voting is permitted.**

YUFA By-laws

By-Law 1. Election Procedures

a. The minimum nomination period in any election or by-election shall be two weeks.

Nomination periods may be extended at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

b. Elections shall be conducted by ~~campus~~ **electronic** mail ballot. No proxy votes ~~or email votes~~ will be counted by the Returning Officer.

c. Members without an e-mail address will receive a campus mail ballot. No proxy votes will be counted by the Returning Officer.

~~ε~~ d. No less than two weeks shall be allowed between the mailing of ballots and the deadline for returns.

~~ϕ~~ e. Notification of any and all nominations shall be posted to the relevant constituency in a timely manner and through a widely available medium (~~campus mail~~, email, **website**).

List of names of YUFA members who signed the petition to introduce motions on electronic voting to the YUFA membership:

1. Adehoke, Olasunkanmi
2. Amanatides, John
3. Anderson, Katharine
4. Andrews, Kristen
5. Appelbaum, Elie
6. Ardern, Chris
7. Armour, Mary Helen
8. Beare, John
9. Buckley, Neil
10. Chiang, Shin-Hwan
11. Davis, Caroline
12. Delaney, Paul
13. Donaldson, Logan
14. Drake, Janessa
15. Dyer, Ruthanna
16. Ferrara, Ida
17. Gage, William
18. Gagliese, Lucia
19. Gilbert, Michael
20. Hamadeh, Mazen
21. Hamm, Ernst
22. Haas, Tara
23. Hattiangadi, Jagdish
24. Henriques, Denise
25. Ho, Wai-Ming
26. Jackman, Henry
27. Jamnik, Veronica
28. Jarrell, Richard
29. Jones-Imhotep, Edward
30. Jopling, David
31. Kuk, Jennifer
32. Lightman, Bernard
33. Lo, Kin Chung
34. Macpherson, Alison
35. McDermott, John
36. Mills, Alex
37. Mosher, Merv
38. Murray, Patricia
39. Myers, Bob
40. Naddaf, Gerard
41. Riddell, Michael
42. Ritvo, Paul
43. Safai, Parissa
44. Shore, Joel
45. Smith, Barry
46. Sufana, Razvan
47. Verheggen, Claudine
48. Wall, Byron
49. Wilson, Carol
50. Wu, Gillian