

2013 FAIRNESS IN ELECTIONS ACT

An Act to make elections fairer and more transparent

Be it enacted by the Assembly of the Graduate and Professional Student Organization,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “2013 Fairness in Elections Act.”

SECTION 2. AMENDMENTS

1. Article III, Section 3, Part 1 of the Bylaws shall be amended to read as follows:
 1. The Executive Committee officer nomination docket for the next calendar year term shall be opened during December’s Assembly meeting. Current voting Representatives may nominate themselves, other current representatives, current officers, or other eligible graduate or professional students. Nominations shall be taken until January’s Assembly meeting, at which time the docket will be closed. An opportunity for nominations must be afforded during the January meeting. The election must be held immediately after the closing of the nomination docket
2. Article III, Section 3, Part 3 of the Bylaws shall be amended to read as follows:
 1. The vote will be conducted by secret ballot. If the election is contested, a candidate shall require a majority vote of those present in order to assume office; if the election is uncontested, a candidate shall require 75 percent of those present in order to assume office. Candidates otherwise eligible to vote may do so. Any outgoing Executive Committee member not running for re-election shall tally the votes. The officers shall be elected by a majority of voting Representatives casting ballots. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall immediately participate in a run-off election. The votes shall be recorded in the minutes, and the current Parliamentarian must keep the ballots for at least three days.
3. Article III, Section 7, Part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

1. The nomination docket for an officer position becoming vacant before the last Assembly meeting of the spring semester shall immediately open in the first Assembly meeting after the vacancy occurs. Current voting Representatives can nominate themselves, other current representatives, current officers, or other eligible graduate or professional students. The nomination docket shall be closed during that same meeting after all nominations have been taken. The election must be held immediately after the closing of the nomination docket.

4. Article III, Section 7, Part 3 of the Bylaws shall be amended to read as follows:
 1. The election will be held by secret ballot. If the election is contested, a candidate shall require a majority vote of those present in order to assume office; if the election is uncontested, a candidate shall require 75 percent of those present in order to assume office. Candidates otherwise eligible to vote may do so. Absentee votes will not be accepted. The Parliamentarian shall tally the votes. Officers shall be elected by a majority of the voting Representatives casting ballots. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall immediately participate in a run-off election. The Parliamentarian shall record the number of votes in the minutes, and the Parliamentarian shall keep the ballots for at least three days. The newly elected officer shall perform the duties of his/her position for the remainder of the term of office.

SECTION 3. ENACTMENT

1. This Act shall take effect immediately following the enactment of this Act.