

Becky Armstrong

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Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 12:03 PM
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Subject: FS-UEPC resolution on DFLL
Attachments: RobertsRulePages 400-401.pdf

Forwarded on behalf of Faculty Senate President Meera Komarraju:

Dear Senators,

As you all know, on Tuesday, (12/11/2012), the Faculty Senate reviewed and voted on a resolution presented by the UEPC regarding the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures [DFLL].

The vote tallied at the time was: 8 in favor, 6 opposed, and 7 abstaining. Based on an erroneous reading of *Robert's Rules of Order* (RRO) at the time, abstentions were counted as part of the vote, and the motion was announced to have failed.

Subsequently, based on a request from some senators, the Executive Council has further reviewed RRO and found that the initial reading was in error. Abstentions should not have been counted. The relevant passage is as follows:

“The word *majority* means "more than half" and when the term *majority vote* is used without qualification—as in the case of the basic requirement—it means more than half of the votes cast by

persons legally entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions, at a regular or properly called meeting at which a quorum is present.”

Robert's Rules of Order, page 400 §44.

Based on this information, it is apparent that the will of the Senate, as expressed by the tally of ballots originally cast at the meeting, is that the resolution passed. We will amend the record to correctly reflect the outcome of the vote that was taken.

We apologize to the Senate, and the faculty affected, for this error.

Sincerely,

Meera Komarraju

President, Faculty Senate

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Meera Komarraju, Ph.D.

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CHAPTER
XIII

VOTING

1 §44. BASES FOR DETERMINING
A VOTING RESULT

Majority Vote—the Basic Requirement

5 As stated on page 4, the basic requirement for approval of an action or choice by a deliberative assembly, except where a rule provides otherwise, is a *majority vote*. The word *majority* means “more than half”; and when the term *majority vote* is used without qualification—as in the case of the
10 basic requirement—it means more than half of the votes cast by persons entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions, at a regular or properly called meeting. For example (assuming that there are no voters having fractions of a vote, as may occur in some conventions):

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- If 19 votes are cast, a majority (more than 9½) is 10.
 - If 20 votes are cast, a majority (more than 10) is 11.
 - If 21 votes are cast, a majority (more than 10½) is 11.

20 Other bases for determining a voting result, as described below, are required under parliamentary law for certain procedures, or may be prescribed by the rules of the particular body—for decisions in general or for questions of a specified

§44

BASES FOR DETERMINING A VOTING RESULT

401

nature (see also Standard Characteristic 7, pp. 103–4). Regardless of the basis required, a decision can be validly made only when a quorum is present (unless otherwise specified in the rules, as in the case of certain procedural actions); see 40.

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Two-Thirds Vote

A *two-thirds vote*—when the term is unqualified—means at least two thirds of the votes cast by persons entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions, at a regular or properly called meeting. For example (assuming that there are no fractions of votes):

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- If 30 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 20.
- If 31 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 21.
- If 32 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 22.
- If 33 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 22.

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As a compromise between the rights of the individual and the rights of the assembly, the principle has been established that a two-thirds vote is required to adopt any motion that: (a) suspends or modifies a rule of order previously adopted; (b) prevents the introduction of a question for consideration; (c) closes, limits, or extends the limits of debate; (d) closes nominations or the polls, or otherwise limits the freedom of nominating or voting; or (e) takes away membership. (For a list of motions that require a two-thirds vote, see tinted pp. 44–45.)

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In determining whether a question has obtained two thirds of the votes cast, the chair should take a rising vote (or, in a very small assembly, if he prefers and no one objects, a vote by show of hands), and he should obtain a count of the vote whenever he is in doubt concerning the result.

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The chair can obtain a count of the vote initially if it appears—when those in the affirmative rise—that the result

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