A Motion of the Rice University Faculty Senate:
Electronic Voting in Faculty Senate
April 19, 2017

In response to the report on "Faculty Senate Electronic Voting" delivered to the Faculty Senate on February 22, 2017, the Executive Committee moves that voting procedures should be improved in two ways: vote casting should be private; and vote recording should be public.

The EC makes these motions: (revised following Senate discussion held March 29, 2017)

1. That the Faculty Senate institute a default voting system that uses the “i-clicker” classroom response system recommended by the Office of Information Technology (OIT) for campus use.

2. That vote results be displayed on screen in total counts (yay or nay) (including senators’ names) to the FS immediately after the vote.

3. That complete voting records (including senators’ names) be kept in Faculty Senate records. be posted to the Senate wiki space, available to all faculty, net ID required.

4. That access to voting records be granted when a request is received by the Faculty Senate.

5. That the above-described voting procedure be the default method. The Executive Committee reminds the Faculty Senate of the provision for secret voting, as shown below:

A Motion of the Faculty Senate for Secret Ballot
After debate on any motion has ended and before a vote on that motion has begun, any Senator may call (without recognition from the chair) for the vote to be taken by secret ballot. Such a motion for a secret ballot will be in order if one other Senator seconds it. The motion for a secret ballot may be debated until a motion to end debate has been passed under the rules of Section 6.3. At that time the chair will call for an open vote on the motion for a secret ballot. If a majority of the Senators present vote in the affirmative, the vote on the main motion will be taken by secret ballot. The parliamentarian and the deputy speaker will act as tellers and will announce whether the main motion gained a majority of votes or not and will reveal the vote count. If the motion fails, or no such motion is made before voting begins, the vote will be by show of hands.

January 14, 2009: The Senate adopts the proposed language for the Faculty Senate Meeting Rules

6. That the new voting system be instituted on a one-year trial basis (2017-2018) and evaluated at the end of the year for continuation.