

Tie Voting Situation

- 1) UH Approach
- 2) Colleges' Approach

To explore the situation when some candidates are tied during the election of the senators, I contacted representatives of Faculty Senates in few colleges and a representative of the Committee on Faculty Services at UH. The results of the consultations are follows:

1) UH Approach:

UH is using the most sophisticated election system based on preferential Instant Runoff Voting method of counting in the STV (Single Transferrable Vote). The STV ensures that there will not be a tie. The detailed description of how the STV works can be found following the link below:

<https://www.opavote.com/methods/single-transferable-vote>

Comments:

While the system proved to be efficient in avoiding the tie situations, there are few things that have to be taken into account. First and foremost, the UH system is based on proportional representation of the constituencies: departments/schools/colleges. Thus, elections are conducted for each constituency, and each voter is permitted to rank in order of preference as many of the candidates as the voter wishes. Unless LCC doesn't change its elections' policies, it is not going to work for LCC as the college votes campus-wide and doesn't distinguish between candidates' constituencies.

2) Colleges' Approach

I contacted two colleges: KCC and WCC. Seems these colleges also don't have a well-defined tie-breaker procedure (if I contacted right representatives of course). So far, none of them ran into the problem. However, both colleges suggest some solutions:

- a) Redo elections.
- b) Election Committee Chair is a tiebreaker, that is, the Chair refrains from voting unless there is a tie.
- c) Allow more time for voting so that those who didn't cast a ballot by due date could vote and potentially break the tie.
- d) To have an off-campus Faculty Senate Member who would cast a deciding vote in case of tie.
- e) Select a winner randomly.

Comments:

Obviously, whatever suggestion is adopted, it should be offered to Faculty Senate for enacting it as an official tie-breaking procedure.

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