

Date: March 25, 2020

Proposed Guidance on Online Faculty Meetings and Voting

Dear Faculty,

I have heard from several faculty, Deans, and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee requesting guidance on the propriety of remote faculty meetings and remote voting as they relate to the Faculty Code. Please find below some basic points of guidance:

1. Consistent with the Faculty Code, some Schools and Faculties have met and voted remotely, and explicit permission for this is embedded in some School's local rules.
2. I am not aware of any School that explicitly articulates a prohibition on remote meetings and/or remote voting in their school rules. However, I do appreciate that some Schools have interpreted their rules as requiring physical presence in a common location for meetings and voting.
3. For Schools that do not have an express prohibition on remote meetings and voting, and who wish to convene and vote remotely in light of the social-distancing mandated by CDC Guidelines and University policy, I would interpret such actions taken by school faculty as consistent with the Faculty Code. Under current conditions, in which Faculty cannot meet physically on campus, the goal of the Provost's Office is to empower the faculty to set their own rules in a manner consistent with the Faculty Code. School are therefore empowered to hold online meetings and adopt online a set of basic rules for such meetings regarding how quorums will be validated, and how votes will be taken.
4. To be clear: no School has to adopt a remote meeting and/or voting protocol unless the faculty wish to do so. That said, I do encourage Deans and faculty to convene remotely in order to address any particularly time sensitive issues.

If you have questions about this guidance or how to handle a particular matter, please contact Chris Bracey, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.

Sincerely,

M. Brian Blake
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs