**Sponsor(s):** President of the Assembly Duffy

**Cosponsor(s):** Vice President of the Assembly Myers

*Amendment to the Legislative Bylaws Implementing Preferential Voting in Future Legislative Executive Elections*

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association is the official student governing body for Illinois State University;

WHEREAS, Robert’s Rules of Order states that preferential voting refers to “…Any of a number of voting methods by which, on a single ballot when there are more than two possible choices, the second or less-preferred choices can be taken into account if no candidate attains a majority”;

WHEREAS, it is necessary in the case of three or more candidates to implement preferential voting to ensure a majority can practically be attained;

WHEREAS, preferential voting allows voters to cast ballots for the candidate they like most without fear of “spoiling” their vote on a less viable candidate;

WHEREAS, preferential voting reflects a more accurate allocation of votes based on their true preferences;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the legislative bylaws be changed to implement preferential voting as enumerated in Robert’s Rules of Order for future Legislative Executive elections with three or more candidates.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the specific changes to be made are listed as follows (elements bolded below are for clarity by emphasis and shall not be bolded in the actual document):

**Section 1. Officer Elections**

A. The President of the Assembly, Vice President of the Assembly, and the Secretary of the Assembly shall be elected at the first Assembly meeting following the general election. Elections shall be conducted under the following format:

i. Nominations shall be accepted from the Assembly floor.

ii. Each candidate shall have five minutes to speak, and each speaking period shall be followed by a five-minute question and answer session.

iii. A period of debate can be requested by any member of the Association following the question-and-answer session.

a. During the period of debate, the candidate will step out of the room.

iv. **All Officer elections with three or more candidates shall be conducted via preferential voting**. The members shall cast their vote by electronic or secret ballot for any nominated candidate or they may "Abstain".

v. For any Officer of the Assembly election where "Abstain" is the majority vote, the position shall remain open and require another election at the next regular Assembly Meeting. An office may remain open by abstention for one (l) regular Assembly meeting. At the second meeting elections will occur and a vote of "Abstain" will not be valid. If no candidate is nominated for office, the position will be considered vacant.

vi. For any Officer of the Assembly election where there is a tie vote, the Student Body Vice President will cast the tie breaking vote.

Adopted by the Assembly of the Student Government Association on the **DATE** day of **MONTH**, **YEAR**.

We hereunto set our hands in affirmation of the adoption of this amendment by the Assembly of the Student Government Association:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Walsh, Student Body President Alex Duffy, President of the Assembly

I hereunto set my hand in witness and certification of the adoption of this amendment by the Assembly of the Student Government Association:

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Zoe Smith, Secretary of the Assembly

Vote:  \_\_\_ Y \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ N