

Senate Resolution 20/21-01: Technological Methods for Meetings

History: At FSEC Aug. 20, 2020; Passed First Reading at FSEC that day as *Senate Bill 451*
On Faculty Senate Agenda for Aug. 27, 2020; Passed Second Reading that day
On Faculty Senate Agenda for Sept. 24, 2020 for Third Reading; Passed Third Reading that day, becoming
Senate Resolution 20/21-01

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) conducts its meetings according to Section VI of Appendix L of the Faculty Handbook (By-Laws Of The Faculty Senate), and

WHEREAS, the rules in Section VI of the By-Laws are construed as requiring in-person attendance wherever “attendance” is mentioned in the By-Laws, and

WHEREAS, recent circumstances have highlighted the need to conduct business when in-person attendance is unsafe, prohibited, or otherwise restricted, and

WHEREAS, video technological methods exist for hosting groups of attendees where they are not physically co-located,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate be amended to include the following as Section VI, paragraphs H and I:

H. It is the intent that Senate regular and called meetings take place in-person, face-to-face, and co-located whenever possible. If conducting such in-person, face-to-face and co-located meetings is difficult or impossible due to governmental or university limitations to face-to-face meetings, then the Senate President may choose to instead employ technological methods to conduct the Senate meeting as though it were held in-person (“online attendance”), as long as the following conditions are met: 1) Online attendees can be reasonably expected to have access to the technology for this purpose, 2) Potential attendees are informed of the method to be used at least 24 hours beforehand, 3) The method has means to ensure that the identity of each online attendee can be known to all attendees for purposes of a roll call, 4) The method has means to ensure that all attendees (whether in-person or online) can hear what is said by each other, see whatever is displayed, make motions, speak in debate, and vote such that an accurate tally can be made. If only some members are “online” then every effort will be made to ensure their equal participation in the meeting. Rules concerning quorum and proxies are not affected. Online participation under the terms of this paragraph will be considered “attendance” as it is used in these By-Laws.

I. Senate committees, including Executive Committee, may elect to choose the technological meeting option upon at either the decision of committee’s Chair or upon written petition of the majority of the voting members of the committee, in either case, though, the same 4 conditions listed in VI.H (above) must be satisfied to have a meeting employing technological methods. However, if any member of such Committee objects

to the technological option, such Committee shall meet in person. However, no such objection shall be in order if in-person meeting is impossible due to governmental or university restrictions.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these by-laws changes be effective upon passage on Third Reading, with Third Reading to occur no earlier than 30 days from their First Reading of August 20, 2020;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon taking effect, these by-laws changes shall be shown in the official, published Senate By-Laws at the Senate's web site.