

3-27-2015

Constitution revision response memo

Membership Committee

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To: Steering Committee and Constitution Revision Task Force members
From: Stacey Aronson & Nancy Carpenter, co-chairs, for Membership Committee
Re: Revisions to the UMM Constitution noted in 31 March Campus Assembly
Date: 27 March 2015

Thank you for your willingness to tackle the revision of the UMM constitution. We read with interest the proposed changes in the 31 March Campus Assembly agenda, particularly those that pertain to the work of the membership committee. To that end we respectfully suggest that

- 1) All of the suggested revisions in Article IV be removed.
- 2) You solicit the input of the current membership committee members prior to revisiting revisions in Article IV, and that
- 3) All revisions associated with campus assembly elections (*viz.*, Article IV and related) be considered as a whole, at one time, after further consultation (see below).

Regarding the aforementioned revisions, we respectfully suggest that we have the experience and background among the nine members of the committee to do an effective job of clarifying the language and streamlining the elections process. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these revisions or provide you with input *prior* to their appearance in any Campus Assembly agenda.

It has also come to our attention that it is the intent of your task force to take advantage of electronic voting in order to approve the proposed changes in the constitution (when the time comes). We find it deeply ironic that our specific language to modify the constitution to allow electronic voting for elections overseen by the Membership Committee was rejected, while the nebulous “fear” of electronic voting within the realm of Constitution revisions somehow meets an acceptable threshold.

Ultimately, we hope this memo conveys our belief that open and timely communication with relevant parties will go a long way to smooth the passage of any revisions to the constitution and we strongly urge you to consider a more communicative approach.