RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate recommend to the President the addition to Faculty Handbook Section 202.6, regarding Elections, as follows:

202 ACADEMIC POLICIES

202.6 Elections
School-wide elections shall be conducted by a school Election Committee, or in the absence of a properly-elected committee, by the Election Committee of the Academic Senate. The school Election Committees should be composed of two or more elected faculty with staggered terms. All university-wide and school-wide elections shall meet the following requirements:

a. All members of the general faculty, university-wide or school-wide, as defined in Article 2 of the Constitution of the General Faculty, shall be allowed to vote.
b. Elections shall be conducted in such a way as to ensure the confidentiality and security of all votes.
c. A minimum of five working days will be allowed for nominations.
d. A minimum of five working days will be allowed for voting.
e. The preferential voting system, Single-Transferable Vote, is used to count votes.

The Election Committee of the Academic Senate shall be responsible for conducting elections for members of the school Election Committees and will serve to settle disputes regarding school elections. Any elected faculty member may be subject to a recall election by submission of a petition to the relevant Election Committee signed by one fourth of his or her electorate. Alternatively, after an investigation requested by a majority vote of the Senate, the Senate may initiate a recall election by two-thirds affirmative vote of the Academic Senate. The faculty member is recalled by a two-thirds affirmative vote of his or her electorate.

RATIONALE: Without written procedures, faculty have no way of knowing what makes an election legitimate. This erodes faculty confidence in their governance and breeds discontent. The Faculty Handbook should describe the conditions required of all fair elections. In order to have fair elections the confidentiality of the voter is of paramount importance. Even the possibility of a breach of confidentiality can have a devastating effect on self-governance. By using two or more Election Committee members and a two-envelope system, voter anonymity is protected. Since school Election Committee members must be elected, a neutral body should oversee these elections.

APPROVED BY THE ACADEMIC SENATE
MAY 19, 2005