

Title: Amendment 1-2020
Subject: Elections Timing & Methods
Submitted: 15 Sept 2020

The purpose of this amendment is to allow online voting methods and to move GTAC officer elections from the fall semester to the spring semester. Currently, all GTAC officer elections must be held in-person. This amendment would allow online voting methods and create a procedure for secure online voting which is accessible to the membership. Currently, the membership elects new officers in the fall semester, leaving GTAC with absent or appointed replacement officers during the summer and early fall months. While appointed replacements fall within our bylaws, it will be more democratic to have elected officers. Also, because the majority of annual work occurs in the fall semester, this will allow new officers several months over the summer to train and familiarize themselves with their role before they must begin secure operations such as contract negotiations and grievance handling.

1. Article III, Section 5, shall be amended by striking the word “fall” and inserting the word “spring.”
2. Article III, Section 6, shall be amended by striking all instances of the words, “August”, “September, and “October”, and inserting the words, “February”, “March”, and “April”, respectively.
3. Article III, Section 6 shall be amended to include procedure for online elections.
4. Article III, Section 6(xii) shall read, “Any amendment to the timing of annual elections shall take immediate effect, and in no circumstance shall any officer serve more than fourteen (14) months between elections, except in such circumstances that may prevent the proper administration of elections.”
5. This amendment shall take immediate effect upon adoption.

Overview of Proposed Changes

Article III: Election of Officers and Standing Committee Chairs

Section 5. Schedule & Term Limits

Officers and committee chairs shall be elected in the ~~fall~~ **spring** semester of each year. Terms of office shall be for one year from the date of assuming office.

Section 6. Elections Procedure

The intent is to begin this process in ~~August~~ **February**, to certify all nominations in ~~September~~ **March**, and to hold elections in ~~October~~ **April**. However, good faith efforts that begin later but adhere to notification minimums will not be considered out of bylaws. Elections shall be held as follows:

- i. The President shall appoint two members to the Elections Committee, said appointment being confirmed by the Steering Committee, by ~~August~~ **February** 1st of each year.
- ii. The Elections Committee shall make a good faith effort to notify all unit members of opening of nominations, offices to be filled, date of the election, and of the eligibility requirements to vote, within thirty (30) days of said election.
- iii. Members may nominate themselves by giving notice of intent to run for office to any member of the Elections Committee within thirty (30) days of the notice of the opening of nominations.
- iv. Committee members may seek out nominations from members. Any member of the Elections Committee nominated for or seeking office must vacate their position and be replaced by a member appointed by the president and approved by the Steering Committee.

- v. The Elections Committee shall certify all nominated members by checking their membership status with AFT-Kansas. Unit members shall be given a good faith opportunity to become members before being decertified.
- vi. Once certified, and at least ten (10) days before the election, the Elections Committee shall notify all unit members of the candidates, the position for which they are running, and of the election time, date, location, and eligibility requirements to vote.
- ~~vii. The election shall be held at a general membership meeting. The vote shall be by secret ballot. At least two members of the Elections Committee will hold a table with a complete list of members in good standing, unit members, secret ballots, and membership sign-up cards. These members shall certify all members of their standing before passing out ballots. Members who sign up at the table will be allowed to vote.~~
- ~~viii. The ballots shall be counted at the meeting, in view of the general membership. Questionable ballots shall be set aside and certified by the consensus of the Elections Committee prior to the final calculation. All elections materials, including decertified and/or runoff ballots, will be kept in a secure location for one (1) year.~~
- vii. The election shall be held at a General Meeting. The vote shall be by secret ballot. The Executive Board shall choose to vote in person or online, whichever method is least restrictive and most accessible to the membership.
 - a. When elections are held in person:
 - i. At least two members of the Elections Committee will hold a table with a complete list of members in good standing, unit members, secret ballots, and membership sign-up cards. The Elections Committee shall certify the standing of each member before passing out ballots. Unit members who sign up to become dues members at the table will be allowed to vote.
 - ii. The ballots shall be counted at the meeting, in view of the membership. Questionable ballots shall be set aside and certified by the consensus of the Elections Committee prior to the final calculation. All elections materials, including decertified and/or runoff ballots, will be kept in a secure location for one (1) year.

- b. When elections are held online:
 - i. The Elections Committee shall review available services to determine which is most appropriate. The most appropriate shall be the least restrictive service which is accessible for all dues members and allows for anonymous voting with a certification of member standing process overseen by a third-party or AFT-Kansas.
 - ii. The results will be announced as soon as possible, based on the limits of the service. Questionable ballots shall be set aside and certified by a third-party or AFT-Kansas prior to the final calculation. All elections data will be kept in a password-protected drive for two (2) years.
- viii. A simple majority shall determine the outcome of the election. In the absence of a majority, a second vote will be taken between the two candidates who have received the most votes for the office in question. Any run-off ballots cast for other candidates than the two in runoff status shall be invalidated. Results shall be announced ~~at the election meeting~~ as soon as possible based on voting method.
- ix. The election results will be published in writing within three (3) days following the election. Challenges and objections to the election must be submitted in writing, with a statement of supporting reasons that includes specific facts as well as any documentation, to the Elections Committee within five (5) days of this notification. The Elections Committee shall issue its written opinion regarding the objections no later than seven (7) days after receipt of such objections, notifying members and the signatories to the objection by First Class mail to their last known address. If there are no challenges, the election results stand.
- x. Successful candidates shall assume office within fifteen (15) days of the election.
- xi. Any amendment to the timing of annual elections shall take immediate effect, and in no circumstance shall any officer serve more than fourteen (14) months between elections, except in such circumstances that may prevent the proper administration of elections.