

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®
Committee on Elections
Faculty Center
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Meeting Minutes 2.17.21
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Present: Ryan Chin, **Chair**, Benjamin Jens, Kayle Skorupski, Faculty Center Staff

Additional Participants: Adam Brokamp, Information Technology Manager, Barry Brummund, CIO, Kelly South, Senior Director, Marketing and Communications UITs,

Call to Order

Chair Shin called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. Committee members and participants introduced themselves.

Faculty Election Insecurities and Updates

Brummund recapped the recent events of the 2021 General Election. On Monday, February 15, 2021, prior to the Senate Executive Committee Meeting, Committee on Elections Chair Shin received a letter from candidate Theodore Downing detailing voter mechanism fraud concerning ballot box stuffing with the Qualtrics survey for the 2021 General Faculty General Election. The letter was forwarded to the Faculty Officers, who contacted Brummund, who contacted Brokamp in order to review the logic settings in the survey.

A configuration problem was evident in the most recent election survey, as well as past surveys, to prevent duplicate submission of votes. Brummund and Brokamp reviewed the voting mechanism and pulled election survey data for several years (back to 2016) to check data analysis for any changes to the election outcomes due to duplicate submission of votes. Brokamp and Brummund reported the following discrepancies were found:

2021 Gen Election Duplicates

- Out of 757 votes – **4** duplicates found

2020 Gen Election Duplicates

- Out of 818 votes – **6** duplicates found

2020 Runoff Election Duplicates

- Out of 669 total votes – **0** duplicates found

2019 Gen Election Duplicates

- Out of 604 total votes – **2** duplicates found

The initial troubleshooting analysis was correct as this does appear to be the result of a missing setting within the Survey itself. The following describe authentication steps when set up correctly.

1. When voters arrive to the survey, they are required to sign in to the University's WebAuth authenticator.
2. The voting survey captures the NetID and voting code associated to the voter.
3. Next the survey taker's NetID is compared to a list of eligible voters pulled directly from UAccess Analytics and stored in a Qualtrics contact list. One of three things occur as a result of this comparison:
 - a. If a match is found, and the contact list **does not** show a previous submission, the voter is allowed in to submit their vote.
 - b. If a match is found, and the contact list **does** show a previous submission, the voter will be pushed to the end of the survey with a special message stating that a vote has already been submitted.
 - c. If no match is found, the voter is pushed to the end of the survey with a special message stating that they are not listed as an eligible voter. Contact information is provided here to reach out to the Faculty Center.

Brokamp shared the screen shot of the logic for the election survey showing where the box for multiple input was checked where it shouldn't have been. Brokamp stressed that the mechanism is a sound one when implemented properly, and that above authentication workflow for the survey performs over and above the ballot box stuffing option, thereby alleviating anyone to vote more than one time. The ballot box stuffing option in the survey design only looks at IP addresses for duplication, instead of NetID authentication. The fail proof measure is the certification at the end of the survey, which authenticates the vote for a full submission, excluding partial submissions that are not counted.

The raw data for the current and past surveys was distributed to the Committee on Elections for review. Shin reported that his review of the 2020 election results, specifically the tie for Vice Chair, showed that without duplicate votes, Hingle would have won by a single vote, thereby alleviating the need for a coin toss to break the tie. For the 2021 election, the only discrepancy is a tie for fourth and fifth place for the SPBAC seats. Faculty Center staff, as well as Brokamp and Brummund, concurred both election results. Faculty Center staff will contact the two SPBAC candidates and the Committee on Elections to arrange a coin toss to break the tie so the top four candidates will move forward to the Runoff election as stated in the Bylaws. No other races were close enough to have their outcomes changed by decrementing the duplicate votes.

The Committee on Elections is satisfied with the current Qualtrics system as a future voting mechanism, and is confident with Brummund and Brokamp's demonstration of confidentiality. Brummund requested a slot on the upcoming March 1, 2021 Faculty Senate agenda to show the security of the system, and to show where the breach was made. The Committee on Elections, as well as Brokamp, will co-present.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.