



## University Senate PROPOSAL FORM

<b>Name:</b>	Sen. Alexander Miletich IV
<b>Date:</b>	January 15, 2011
<b>Title of Proposal:</b>	Change of Process for Handling Tie-Breaks in Senate Elections
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<b>Unit/Department/College:</b>	ARHU
<b>Constituency (faculty, staff, undergraduate, graduate):</b>	Undergraduate
<b>Description of issue/concern/policy in question:</b>	There is currently a hole in our procedures that is undermining the integrity of our Senate. The way we handle ties in concern with vacant Senate seats is being done in a very undemocratic manner. Currently, the system we have in place to settle a tie when filling a vacant Senate seat is a coin toss. This method is not only undemocratic and archaic, but it harms the integrity and legitimacy of our representation. This affects the entire University when their representation is left up to chance.
<b>Description of action/changes you would like to see implemented and why:</b>	We need to change the rules and procedures of handling a tie for a vacant Senate seat in a more democratic and fair way. One that either involves the constituents or the Senate as a whole. This could be done in either a re-polling of the constituents or it could be done through a vote in the Senate, where each candidate would allot a certain amount of time to convince the Senate of their credibility for the position, and then the Senate would vote on one of the two candidates.
<b>Suggestions for how your proposal could be put into practice:</b>	Currently the Plan of Organization document holds the Senate Executive Committee responsible for filling the Senate seats and their procedures for handling a tie should be revised (Article 4.9). I request that the SEC review the procedures for breaking a tie and consider using more appropriate procedures.

**Additional Information:**

The event of a tie may be rare, but it is still something that is possible and we should have proper procedures that deal with it in a manner that is to the greatest benefit of our constituents.