I. Staff Senate Sponsor(s):
Constitution, Parliamentary Procedure, & Elections Committee

II. Title of amendment:
Division Changes

III. Citation of Bylaws verbatim:

Article III – Replacement (Page 4)

Section 1 Non-Divisional Movement Vacancies

In case of a vacancy in the Senate, excluding moves from one election unit to another, the President may appoint a staff member from the affected election unit to be confirmed as a Senator by the Senate’s majority vote. Alternatively, the Senate may conduct a special election to provide the replacement. If the Senate seat is not filled at a special election, or there is insufficient interest for an appointment, the seat will remain unfilled until the next general election. In either case, however, the term of the unfilled seat will not change. That is, if a term for a three-year term is unfilled, it may be filled as a one-year or two-year term at the next general election.

Section 2 Divisional Movement

If a Senator moves from one election unit to another, he or she may continue to serve through the end of that term year and is not eligible for reelection in that election unit. This vacancy shall be filled at the next general election. However, the term of the seat will not change. That is, if a term for a three-year term is vacated by a divisional move, it may be filled as a one-year or two-year term at the next general election.

IV. Amendment desired:

Article III – Replacement (Page 4)

Section 1 Non-Divisional Movement Vacancies
In case of a vacancy in the Senate, (excluding moves from one election unit to another, the vacancies described below in Article III, Section 2), the President may appoint a staff member from the affected election unit to be confirmed as a Senator by the Senate’s majority vote. If, in the President’s discretion there is insufficient interest for an appointment, the seat will remain unfilled until the next general election. In either case, however, the term of the unfilled seat will not change. That is, if a term seat with a three-year term is unfilled, it may be filled as a one-year or two-year term at the next general election.

Section 2 Divisional Movement Vacancies

If a Senator moves from one election unit to another, or if an election unit changes such that a Senator now belongs in a different election unit, he or she may continue to serve through the end of that term year as a representative for the previous election unit and but is not eligible for reelection in that particular election unit. This vacancy shall be filled at the next general election. However, the term of the seat will not change. That is, if a term seat for a particular election unit is for a three-year term and is vacated by a divisional move, it may be filled as a one-year or two-year term at the next general election.

V. Justification:

More often than previously anticipated, UCO Divisions (and therefore Staff Senate election units) change. Occasionally, Senators will find themselves suddenly belonging to a different division of the university through no fault of their own. The proposed language in the Bylaws now anticipates and accounts for these all too frequent events.

Additionally, by its very nature, Staff Senate will attract members who are high achieving, ambitious employees with leadership skills. Not surprisingly, high achieving, ambitious employees with leadership skills often are assigned more and more work, are promoted into positions with greater responsibilities, or are poached by other companies. Every year, Staff Senators leave the university or take on greater responsibilities to the point where they cannot continue to be involved in Staff Senate. While Presidential appointments continue to serve an important role in filling these gaps in our membership, every time we conduct a special election it requires a large amount of work for the Parliamentarian and Human Resources. The proposed language seeks to eliminate special elections to ease the responsibilities of future Parliamentarians.

Passed by consent of the UCO Staff Senate this 3rd day of December 2019.

Scott DeBoard, Staff Senate President