RESOLUTION

SSR 2015/2016-004

I. Resolution Name: Defining “Instant-Runoff”

II. Sponsoring Committee: Constitution, Parliamentary Procedures, and Elections

III. Stated Resolution:

Be it resolved that the University of Central Oklahoma Staff Senate shall define the term “instant-runoff” in Article II, Section 2 and Article V, Section 3 of the Staff Senate Bylaws as being equivalent to “preferential voting” as described in Robert’s Rules of Order (RONR (11th ed.), pp. 425-428) and shall use the system therein described. However, the Constitution, Parliamentary Procedures, and Elections committee shall be allowed to make reasonable adjustments to that system strictly for the purpose of conducting elections electronically.

IV. Definition of Terms: Preferential voting in Robert’s Rules of Order works thusly:
   (1) On each ballot, each person votes by ranking the candidates in order of preference.
   (2) If a candidate has the majority vote, then a winner is declared and the election is over.
   (3) Otherwise, the candidate(s) with the fewest votes is eliminated. Those votes cast for the now eliminated candidate are reallocated according to their next preferred candidate who hasn’t been eliminated.
   (4) Repeat steps (2) and (3).
   (5) In the event of a tie, the candidate with the most 1st choice votes is declared the winner.
   (6) Additionally, if there are multiple open seats being voted upon, the voting process remains the same, except that candidates are eliminated until the number of candidates remaining equals the number of open seats. (Note: Not all candidates will reach a majority vote if there are multiple seats being voted upon.)

V. Justification:

Robert’s Rules of Order describes “preferential voting” in the context of piles of ballots to be sorted based on size. This resolution allows the CPP&E committee to conduct the entire election process electronically.

While more equitable, but more mathematically intense “instant-runoff” voting systems exist (e.g., Single Transferable Vote), the current electronic voting tools afforded by
UCO don’t make their implementation easy. By defining “instant-runoff” as “preferential voting” in a resolution, it allows future Staff Senate’s with more robust voting tools to redefine “instant-runoff” as something else without amending the bylaws.

VI. Office(s) Contacted:

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VII. Office(s) Affected: This resolution aims to change the voting system the entire staff uses during Staff Senate elections to a more streamlined, less intrusive system. However, the organization that will implement these changes will be the CPP&E committee.

VIII. Will this resolution been presented to any of the following senates?

☒ Staff Senate
☐ Faculty Senate
☐ UCO Student Association (UCOSA) Executive or Congressional Branches