

**CODE CHANGES 2021:  
COUNCIL ATTENDANCE**

TO: Council  
FROM: Governance Committee  
June 2021

Amendment to establish rules for remote, in-person, and hybrid meetings of Council in non-emergency times and to allow Council votes to be held electronically without a Council meeting.

Additions are indicated by ***bold italics***. Deletions are made by striking through (~~like this~~).

**SECTION III: MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

**Article 1. Rules of Order**

2. ...

~~(d) For the purposes of quorum, only members of Council and their proxies physically present at the meeting location shall be considered, unless the meeting is being conducted entirely by means of teleconference or videoconference in accordance with paragraph 42 below.~~

3. (a) Subject to paragraph 42 below, Council meetings shall be held in the Forum, unless Council resolves, by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution, to meet elsewhere.

41. Remote Attendance

~~(a) Subject to paragraph 42 below, during the months of September through April inclusive, Council members who are unable to attend a meeting of Council shall not be permitted to take part in debate or vote by telephone or electronic means. They may only take part in debate and vote if physically present. However, if paragraph 42 has been invoked and a meeting is taking place entirely by teleconference or videoconference, this provision shall not apply.~~

(b) ~~(a) Between the months of May and August inclusive,~~ Council members shall, at the discretion of the Chair, be permitted to attend Council meetings remotely, that is, to take part in debate and vote by telephone or electronic means, provided that the conditions specified in paragraphs (c) and (d) below are met.

***(b) The Chair shall only permit remote attendance for good reasons, such as illness, personal emergency, or being out of town.***

(c) The Executive Committee and the Speaker of Council shall maintain a reliable means for members of Council to attend meetings remotely, preferably by a video

**Commented [A1]:** If we require quorum to include only those present, we may not make quorum if enough people join remotely.

**Commented [A2]:** Need to remove this to allow remote attendance even in non-emergency times during the School Year.

**Commented [A3]:** Removing this allows remote attendance all year long.

**Commented [A4]:** This will limit remote attendance and encourage in person attendance.

conferencing system or alternatively by speaker phone or other similar device, so long as whatever system or device is used **permits** all members attending, whether in person or remotely, ~~can~~ **to** hear each other and participate in debate.

**Commented [A5]:** Clarifying the language.

(d) The Executive Committee and the Speaker of Council shall also maintain a reliable means for members of Council who are attending meetings remotely to cast both roll call votes and secret ballot votes.

(e) ~~Subject to paragraph 42 below, Council members attending remotely shall not count towards quorum. Only Council members or their proxies attending in person shall count towards quorum. However, if paragraph 42 has been invoked and a meeting is taking place entirely by teleconference or videoconference, this provision shall not apply.~~

**Commented [A6]:** Again, deleting this prevents us missing quorum if too many people attend remotely.

42. (a) In extraordinary circumstances, where it is not possible to hold a Council meeting at which Council members attend in person, the President may decide to conduct a Council meeting entirely by means of teleconference or videoconference, the logistics for which shall be arranged by the President, the Speaker, and Society staff.

**Commented [A7]:** Still retaining this option in case of pandemics etc.

(b) ~~In such extraordinary circumstances, the President may also have Council conduct business by means of email votes, or some other form of online electronic voting, without conducting a meeting, the results of such votes to be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of Council. However, if one third (1/3) of the voting members of Council object to an email or online vote on a particular motion, that motion shall be brought to a Council meeting.~~

**Commented [A8]:** It has been suggested that we allow this even in ordinary times. See below.

~~43. When voting on a Resolution to appoint members of Committees, Council may do so by means of an email vote or some other form of online electronic voting. However, if one third (1/3) of the voting members of Council object to an email or online vote on such a Resolution, that Resolution shall be brought to a Council meeting.~~

**Commented [A9]:** No longer restricted to committee appointments. See below.

43. ***At the President's discretion, Council may conduct business by means of digital votes without conducting a meeting, the results of such votes to be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of Council. However, if any one (1) of the voting members of Council objects to a digital vote on a particular motion, that motion shall be brought to a Council meeting.***

44. ***The President must send the request for a digital vote to all voting members of Council and allow at least forty-eight (48) hours for the members to submit their votes digitally, with the understanding that in emergency cases a shorter time period may be allowed.***

45. ***For a digital vote to pass, a majority of those voting must vote in favour, and the number of members voting must be at least equal to quorum. In the case of a two-thirds (2/3) motion, the number voting in favour must constitute a two-thirds majority.***