

## **2021 Assembly Discussion and Voting Procedures**

Based on feedback from last year's Assembly, the following procedures will be used this year. These procedures constitute Special Rules as laid out in the AEU Bylaws, Article X, Section 3.

### **Board and Officer Elections**

The election for board members and officers will be conducted electronically via a ballot that will be made available to Delegates in advance of the business meeting.

The vote will be tallied after the conclusion of the business meeting by two separate individuals, following the procedures required by the AEU bylaws.

### **Other Business Matters**

All amendments to matters of business must be submitted by midnight on August 1, 2021. This is one day after the last of the business discussion meetings, and six days before the Assembly Business Meeting on Saturday, August 7. This ensures that Delegates have sufficient time to consider any amendments that have been offered and to obtain input from their Societies, if needed.

No amendments will be accepted from the floor.

Voting on all matters of business other than the board and officer elections will be done on a single ballot, which will be made available after the conclusion of discussion during the business meeting.

In the event that there are several versions of the same matter of business, delegates will be given the opportunity to rank the options. This system is being implemented in order to avoid the confusion we experienced last year, in which Delegates had to wait to learn the result of votes on amendments before they could decide whether to vote in favor of the original proposal. Using this system, Delegates will be able to decide which versions of a proposal are acceptable to them, and express their preference between the acceptable options.

Delegates should rank only those options they consider acceptable outcomes. For example, if there are three options -- options A, B, and C -- and the Delegate thinks option B is better than option A, but they would like one of those two options to be enacted, they would rank B first, A second, and not rank C at all. Not ranking C is the equivalent of voting against option C.

In order to determine which option wins, all of the ballots' first choices are examined. If one of the options has then reached the threshold for passage (usually more than 50%), it passes. This is just like a regular vote. If, on the other hand, none of the options got enough first choices to win, then the option receiving the fewest first choice votes is eliminated from consideration, and second choice votes begin to be considered. For a more complete explanation of this system,

please see [https://ballotpedia.org/Ranked-choice\\_voting\\_\(RCV\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Ranked-choice_voting_(RCV)). Note that this explanation illustrates how the system works for choosing between candidates, but the same principles apply.

According to the AEU Bylaws, most matters of business require a majority vote of the Assembly. In addition, bylaw amendments also require that a majority of the Societies vote in favor of them, while Resolutions require that a two-thirds majority of Delegates vote in favor. In the ranked voting system, this means that an item of business cannot pass unless the requisite number of Delegates have included that item in their ranking. These rules will be followed -- no item of business will pass the Assembly unless the requisite number of Delegates cast a vote in favor of it.

In the event that the ranked voting on a bylaws amendment produces a different ranked preference between the delegate vote and the society vote, the following procedure will be used, which is consistent with the results that would have occurred in the past at our in-person assemblies:

1. If there exists no option that achieves a majority vote in both the delegate vote and the society vote, then the bylaw amendment fails.
2. If there exist multiple options that achieve a majority vote in both the delegate vote and the society vote, the option that is ranked higher in the delegate vote will be considered to have passed.

Delegates will be permitted to vote until 10pm Eastern Time on the day of the Assembly, and technical assistance will be available.

### **Discussion at the Assembly Business Meeting**

The discussion at the business meeting will proceed as follows:

- 1) The chair will request that a motion be made to adopt the next item on the agenda. For example, that someone move that the bylaw amendment or resolution be adopted by the Assembly. Participants will use the "raise hand" function in Zoom to indicate that they wish to make the motion. The first hand raised will be considered to have made the motion, and the second hand raised will be considered to have seconded the motion.
- 2) The author or other responsible party will be invited to introduce the measure.
- 3) Amendments
  - a) If there have been changes to an agenda item that were accepted by its authors, the attendees will be asked whether there are any objections to accepting the most recent version. If there are no objections, only the most recent version will appear on the final ballot. If there are objections, these changes will be considered separately using the procedures in this section.

- b) If any amendments to the measure were submitted, the chair will request that a motion be made to adopt the amendment. Participants will use the “raise hand” function in Zoom to indicate that they wish to make the motion. The first hand raised will be considered to have made the motion, and the second hand raised will be considered to have seconded the motion.
  - c) Discussion will be held for the amendment, with alternating speakers for and against. The author or other responsible party will be the first speaker for the amendment. A list of persons interested in speaking for and against will be determined at the beginning of this time period. There will be a 9 minute time limit on the total discussion, with a 90 second time limit per speaker. If no additional delegates wish to speak on one side of an issue, discussion will be concluded even if the 9 minute time limit has not been reached.
  - d) No vote will be taken on the amendment during the meeting. Instead, the amended version of the measure will be one of the options appearing on the ballot, as described above.
- 4) Discussion of the original motion will begin. There will be alternating speakers for and against. A list of persons interested in speaking for and against will be determined at the beginning of this time period. There will be a 9 minute time limit on the total discussion, with a 90 second time limit per speaker. If no additional delegates wish to speak on one side of an issue, discussion will be concluded even if the 9 minute time limit has not been reached.
  - 5) At the conclusion of the time limit for discussion, the chair will close the discussion on the motion. The measure will appear on the ballot, as described above.
  - 6) Any motions not related to adoption of agenda items (e.g. points of order, points of information) will be made via chat message to a designated individual, who will interrupt the proceedings as needed.
  - 7) A single ballot for all matters of business will be made available at the conclusion of the business meeting, and will remain open until 10pm Eastern Time. The results will be announced via email and posted on the Delegate Information page.