**S.R. 22/23-03**

**Online Attendance and Voting for Faculty Senate and Senate Committee Meetings**

**Bill History:**

Presented to FSEC for first reading Thursday Oct 13, 2022

Presented to the Faculty Senate for second reading Thursday Oct 22, 2022

Passed second reading unanimously (no third reading necessary)

Sent to admin for response November 16, 2022

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) conducts its meetings according to By-Laws Of The Faculty Senate, and

WHEREAS, the rules in Section VI of the By-Laws may be construed as requiring in-person attendance wherever “attendance” is mentioned in the By-Laws, and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has highlighted the need to conduct business when in-person attendance is unsafe, prohibited, or otherwise restricted, and

WHEREAS, video technological methods exist for hosting groups of attendees where they are not physically co-located,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate be amended to include the following as Section VI, paragraphs H and I:

H. If conducting in-person, Senate meetings is difficult or impossible due to extenuating limitations or restrictions, then the Senate President or the Executive Committee may choose to employ technological methods to conduct the Senate meeting, as though it were held in-person, via “online attendance” as long as the following conditions are met: 1) Potential attendees are informed of the method to be used at least 24 hours beforehand; 2) Online attendees can be reasonably expected to have access to the technology for this purpose; 3) The method has means to ensure that the identity of each online attendee can be known to all attendees for purposes of a roll call; and, 4) The method provides access through the institution’s tele/video-conferencing technology (e.g. Zoom, Google Meets) so that all attendees (whether in-person or online) should be able to hear what is said by each other, see whatever is displayed, make motions, speak in debate, and vote such that an accurate tally can be made. Additionally, during regularly scheduled in-person meetings, if a member is unable to attend in person due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. illness), they may, upon written petition to the President-Elect or relevant committee chair, participate via online attendance. Rules concerning quorum and proxies are not affected. Online attendance under the terms of this paragraph will be considered “attendance” as it is used in these By-Laws.

I. Absent extenuating circumstances, committees may vote in person to employ technological methods to conduct further committee meetings via online attendance. Conditions 1-4 in Section VI.H (above) must be satisfied to allow for online attendance. Additionally, any member of the Committee can petition the Chair to have an in-person meeting. However, no such petition shall be in order if an in-person meeting is impossible due to governmental or university restrictions. Rules concerning quorum and proxies are not affected. Online attendance under the terms of this paragraph will be considered “attendance” as it is used in these By-Laws.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon taking effect, these by-laws changes shall be shown in the official, published Senate By-Laws at the Senate’s website.