

Proposed amendments to the Constitution and the Union Council's Recommendations

The 2016 ballot will contain a question on a proposed package of constitutional amendments. These changes reflect the input of members at the annual strategic planning meeting in Summer 2015. **These changes are recommended by the EMUFT Union Council.**

The proposed amendments would make three major changes to the current constitution, each of which is explained in further detail, below:

1. Change the required time frame for annual elections from a specific calendar day to a range of possible days;
2. Change the required date for budget votes to allow the budget to be prepared in a manner that more accurately reflects the local's anticipated finances;
3. Change the term of office for newly elected officers so that the start date for future officers (beginning Spring, 2017) will be May 1 to April 30, instead of the current April 1 to March 30.

Attached to this email is the text of the relevant sections of the current constitution, as well as the proposed package of amendments. Because the proposed changes are inter-dependent in terms of altering required dates, these amendments are being proposed as a package to be voted upon in their entirety.

Explanation:

1. Timing of Annual Membership Convention and Election of Local Officers

- **The current constitution** requires that the Annual Membership Convention be held on a specific calendar day (the second Friday after winter recess). Over the years, many members have indicated that this date is not convenient for them.
- **The proposed amendment** allows the Annual Membership Convention to be held any time between March 1 and April 15, and requires that Officer Elections be completed prior to the end of that Convention.
- **This change would allow** for a more flexible approach to the timing of elections, including the possibility of mail-in ballots in future elections. **The Union Council recommends this change.**

2. Timing of the Annual Draft Budget Vote

- **The current constitution** requires that the annual budget be voted on by the membership at the Annual Membership Convention (second Friday after winter recess). EMUFT's budget year runs from September 1 to August 31. The current requirement means that draft budgets are prepared eight to nine months in advance of the budget year.
- **The proposed amendment** allows for more flexibility in the timing of the annual budget vote by setting a June 30th deadline for that vote to occur.

- **This change would allow** draft budgets to better reflect the financial circumstances of the local and therefore, make draft budgets a more effective financial planning tool. **The Union Council recommends this change.**

3. Terms of Office for Elected Local Officers

- **The current constitution** sets the terms of office for elected local officers as April 1 to March 31. This results in a transition of leadership mid-way through the Winter semester, which many people have experienced as disruptive.
- **The proposed amendment** would change the terms of office to begin on May 1 and end on April 30, starting with those officers elected in 2017.
- **This change would allow** for greater stability of leadership through the course of the academic year by allowing newly elected officers to begin in the Spring, rather than part-way through the Winter semester. **The Union Council recommends this change.**