



September 14, 2020

Professor Charles van Loan
Dean of Faculty, Cornell University

Dear Dean van Loan,

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business's new Policy on the Professor of Practice before the University Senate. I wanted to write to you directly with a direct response to one of the questions that I faced during the presentation and that I was unable to answer on the spot.

A question from a senator arose about the rules in the College for a quorum in voting. I stated to the senator that, to the best of my recollection, neither the Faculty Governance Committee of 2016 that established our founding policies/procedures, nor our College's Faculty Policy Committee had taken up the issue. And I committed to finding out. Indeed, I can now confirm that we have no College rules about a quorum.

As with all policies/procedures in our College that do not yet exist, we rely on those policies/procedures in each of the formerly independent schools that make up our College. Here is the information I secured:

- According to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management, the practice among Dyson faculty has been that a quorum is 50% of the faculty present. The practice has always been to never distinguish between tenure-track, tenured and RTE faculty in votes on faculty legislation.
- According to the School of Hotel Administration's Practices and Procedures Manual (p. 13), voting follows the general procedures of Robert's Rules of Order and, unless there is a special rule on the subject, a quorum is held to be a majority of those authorized to vote or conduct business. Faculty members whose titles are modified by "adjunct" and "visiting" or those whose appointments are less than part time are not eligible to vote. At the School, there is a special practice that when determining a quorum, faculty members on sabbatical or other leaves are not counted. A majority vote means that a majority of the votes cast (ignoring blanks and abstentions) is sufficient for the adoption of any motion except those that require a two-thirds vote. In instances where more than a majority vote is specified, two-thirds of the votes cast (ignoring blanks and abstentions) support the motion.
- The Faculty By-Laws of the Johnson Graduate School of Management specifies that voting members of the faculty include Cornell faculty whose main appointment is in the School whose contractual title is Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor. Except for promotion and tenure votes, all voting members vote on all issues. Instructors, Senior Research Associates, Senior Extension Associates, Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, Clinical Professors, Professors of Practice, Acting Assistant Professors and those bearing the adjunct title in the School are nonvoting members of the faculty, except in matters of appointment, reappointment, and promotion...and in other matters deemed appropriate by the Dean or Dean's designee. Meetings are convened under the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order and the only exception is that faculty legislation is approved by a simple majority of votes. An interpretation in 2016 by then Associate Deans for Academic Affairs Vrinda Kadiyali and Joe Thomas was that, since the Faculty By-Laws of the School state that meetings are convened under the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order, which indicate two-thirds majority, then two-thirds majority should represent a quorum.

Our electorate included 151 tenure-track and tenured faculty members, plus 65 RTE faculty. We had six tenure-track faculty on sabbatical or other leaves in Spring. In order to hit a two-thirds majority, two of the three schools would have required 140 faculty members to participate in the vote. We had 145 faculty

members vote (101 votes in favor, 27 opposed, 17 in abstention). With 101 votes in favor out of 145 cast (69.7% in favor), the vote would have satisfied the simple majority vote required for faculty legislation in each of the three Schools.

Thank you again for your support to date. I hope this response is helpful as the Senate moves to discussion and a vote. And do not hesitate to reach out to me if any other questions arise.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Karolyi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "G" being particularly large and stylized.

G. Andrew Karolyi

Deputy Dean and Dean of Academic Affairs, Cornell SC Johnson College of Business

Cc: Kevin Hallock, Dean, Cornell SC Johnson College of Business