



ELECTIONS AT THE 2010 CONVENTION

I. Background

USP Bylaws require that Officers, Trustees, and the Council of Experts (CoE) be elected by the Members of the USP Convention. The election normally occurs during the five-year meeting of the Membership. Elections during the membership meeting are overseen by the Committee of Tellers (CoT) (Bylaws Chapter XIII, Section 2). The CoT has approved the following procedure and shall be present at any balloting procedure undertaken at the meeting.

II. Balloting Procedures

For the 2010 meeting, Delegates (voting representatives of member organizations) will use an Audience Response System (ARS) for voting purposes, including election of Officers, Trustees, and CoE. While the ARS chosen by the CoT has been examined carefully for security, accuracy, and technical functionality, the CoT also has established a back-up paper ballot procedure in the event the ARS malfunctions in any way. A paper ballot shall only be used in the event that the ARS malfunctions.

A. Electronic Balloting

The election of the 2010-2015 Officers, Trustees, and CoE is scheduled to take place in the afternoon Business Session on Friday, April 23, 2010 using the Meridia Audience Response System (ARS). Each Delegate must be present during the voting session and use his/her ARS keypad for voting. Keypads will be distributed during the Delegate check-in procedure at the registration desk. A ballot worksheet has been provided in each Delegate's binder for use in preparing for the official balloting on April 23.

1. During the voting session, each candidate pair or group of candidates (including an option to abstain) will be introduced by the Secretary, and projected on the presentation screens in the Independence Ballroom where the elections will be held.
2. Delegates will be instructed to cast their ballots for the candidate pair or group on the screen, and a clock will appear in the corner of the screen giving Delegates a specified amount of time to enter selections.
3. A 20-second time limit will be given when a candidate pair is presented.
4. A 45-second time limit will be given when a candidate group is presented. This will occur only during the balloting for Officers and Trustees.
5. Three candidate groups will be presented during the election. These include:
 - Four (4) candidates for two (2) Medical Sciences Trustee positions. Delegates must enter two (2) votes. Abstentions are valid votes. In order for your vote to count, you must enter two votes.

- Four (4) candidates for two (2) Pharmaceutical Sciences Trustee positions. Delegates must enter two (2) votes. Abstentions are valid votes. In order for your vote to count, you must enter two votes.
- Six (6) candidates will be presented for three (3) At-Large Trustee positions. Delegates must enter three (3) votes. Abstentions are valid votes. In order for your vote to count, you must enter two votes.

6. IMPORTANT NOTE:

When a candidate group is presented for vote, Delegates will have one opportunity to register their votes. The ARS locks in the first set of votes you enter (first two or first three depending on group). There is no opportunity to change your votes.

7. In the event of a tie vote, a runoff election will be held immediately following the conclusion of regular voting and will include only the candidates or group of candidates involved in the tie vote. If the tie occurs in a candidate group, those who have a majority are elected, and all other candidates remain on the ballot for the necessary repeated balloting.

B. Paper Balloting

Should it become necessary to use a paper ballot, the CoT will oversee the distribution of official ballots by the Elections Team to each Delegate.

1. The form of ballot shall be verified for accuracy by the Secretary or the Secretary's designee to insure that each eligible candidate is listed within the category or committee for which he/she has been nominated.
2. Delegates shall be given two (2) hours to complete and return their ballots from the time the paper ballot procedure is activated and all Delegates have received their ballots.
3. Delegates must mark their ballots clearly and vote for the specified number of candidates in each pairing or group.
4. If a Delegate votes for more than the specified number within a pairing or group, the vote for that pairing or group will be void.
5. If a Delegate does not wish to vote in a particular category, he/she may mark the "Abstain" box.
6. Members of the Election Team and the CoT will be available to assist Delegates who have questions. However, team and CoT may provide information about the election procedure but may not comment on the qualifications or past performance of any nominated individual.
7. Upon completion of the official ballot(s), Delegates must submit their ballots to the Receipt Team stationed at tables opposite the entrance to the Independence Ballroom.
8. In the event of a tie vote, a runoff election will be held including only the candidates or group of candidates involved in the tie vote. If the tie occurs in a candidate group, those who have a majority are elected, and all other candidates remain on the ballot for the necessary repeated balloting. The vote shall be performed on Saturday morning, presumably as the first order of business, using the Paper Balloting process described above except that members of the Receipt Team will collect all Delegate ballots for counting.

