Background for ASPP Discussion:
Procedures for Tie Votes for Elected Governance Positions

Background:

ASPP specifies how elections are to be held, who votes, and that a majority or plurality is required for a victory. The question of a tie is not addressed.

Incidental note, the case of multiple candidates for multiple spots within the same entity, such as 5 candidates to fill 3 spots on a shared governance committee, is addressed by the current language " Those candidates receiving the most votes from all the valid ballots cast will fill the vacant positions..."

ASEC: (ASPP 14.12.A.7.d) :

i. Election shall be by secret ballot. Those candidates receiving the most votes from those submitting legal ballots shall be sufficient for election providing the provisions of 14.12.A.6.b. are met. If one of the top candidates is ineligible, the next eligible candidate with the most votes will be elected.

ii. The Assembly, the provost (or designee) and the Secretary of the Academic Staff shall ensure fair and impartial elections; shall certify the validity of all ballots; and shall tabulate and announce election results not later than 96 hours after the deadline for the return of ballots.

Standing Committees (ASPP 14.12. B.1.e, as an example):

iv. Election will be in the spring by ballot to Assembly representatives following the meeting at which the slate is presented. Those candidates receiving the most votes from all the valid ballots cast will fill the vacant positions providing the provisions of 14.12.B.1.c.i. are met. If one of the top candidates is ineligible, the next eligible candidate with the most votes will be elected.

Assembly District Representatives (ASPP 13.02.D.2):

a. If the nominating procedure results in more than two nominees for a district, a primary election will be held not later than May 1. Voting will be by secret ballot, by district, and with only those persons belonging to the district being permitted to vote. The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes will be the final candidates.

b. The final election for district representation will be held not later than May 15. Voting will be by secret ballot, by district, with only those persons belonging to the district being permitted to vote. A majority of those voting will be sufficient to elect the representative for that district.

 c. The ASEC, the provost (or designee), and the Secretary of the Academic Staff shall ensure fair and impartial elections, shall certify the validity of all ballots, and shall tabulate and announce the election results no later than 96 hours after the deadline for the return of ballots.

d. If the nomination procedure results in only one nominee from a district, ASEC may appoint the unopposed candidate as the representative of the district without conducting an election.

It is possible that 2 candidates could receive the same number of votes. This is not addressed in any way. A strict interpretation would give us no single candidate with the most votes, thus no winner. That is unlikely to be the intended or desired outcome.

The proposal

PPPC is offering a proposal for discussion by the Assembly. This would apply to assembly district representatives, standing committee members, and ASEC members.

1. First step: runoff election between the tied candidates. Each candidate's original candidate statement would be used.
2. If the runoff election fails to produce a winner, the Assembly votes. Each person's candidate statements would be used. This step is obviously redundant in standing committee member elections so would be skipped. Please consider the appropriateness of this step for Assembly district representatives.
3. If the Assembly vote results in a tie, the decision is deferred to the Provost or designee.

This proposal is offered as a starting point for a discussion. Unlike many of the changes that PPPC brings to the Assembly, this is completely new policy. PPPC feels that the direction of that policy should be determined by the Assembly as the governing body of academic staff.