



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2023

Zoom

The Emergency Executive Council meeting was held, via Zoom, on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 7:05 pm (EST). Ida Jones, the Vice President for Membership called the meeting order and presided in the absence of President W. Marvin Dulaney. Valerie Holt, Treasurer of ASALH, served as Secretary of the meeting. The roll call was conducted and the following were present:

Jarvis Givens, Jeffery Banks, Gregory Mixon, David Walton, Gladys Vaughn, Zebulon Miletsky, Tara White, Lopez Matthews, Valerie Holt, Ida Jones, Kenvi Phillips, Gloria Browne Marshall, Omar Eaton Martinez, and Lyman Brodie.

The above constituted a majority and quorum of the Executive Council necessary for the transaction of business.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider and vote on several motions with respect to the 2023 election process. The following motions were being presented to the EC for consideration:

A motion to remove any candidate(s) from the 2023 ASALH election process that were not approved by the Executive Council:

- I move that the nominating committee enforce the action taken by the Executive Council during its summer 2023 meeting to approve a slate of candidates; and that any individuals who were not approved by the ASALH Executive Council be deemed ineligible to be seated as members of the 2026 Class of the ASALH Executive Council.

Rationale for the motion. The first statement under “Article V: Elections” of the ASALH constitution states, “The Executive Council shall determine the *manner* and timing of elections” [Italics added]. The manner and timing of the election was decided by a majority vote among the Executive Council during its summer 2023 meeting only to be disregarded by the President. President Dulaney’s actions were/are unconstitutional, and therefore any subsequent events or action taken that extend from his decision are out of order.

Motion: It was moved by Jarvis Givens and seconded by Valerie Holt.

The committee discussed the substance of the motion and voted.

The motion passed with 8 approving, and 2 dissenting.

A motion to halt communications beyond the Executive Council regarding results of the 2023 ASALH election until the Executive Council has received a thorough report of the election process.

- I move that the nominating committee cease all announcements regarding details of 2023 ASALH election results until the Executive Council is provided a thorough report detailing the election process, which should include specific details; especially details of any and all person who were involved in administering, collecting, and counting the electronic ballots sent to the ASALH membership leading to the results presented by the nominating committee on September 9, 2023, as well as the process by which the chair of the nominating committee, or any other ASALH official, sought out ballot counters.

Motion: It was moved by Jarvis Givens and seconded by Jeffery Banks. The motion was appended to delete the word “electronic” and insert “all” in front of the word “ballots.” The committee discussed the substance of the motion and voted.

The motion passed with 8 approving, 1 dissenting, and 2 abstentions.

A motion to form a special and temporary committee to oversee the remaining business of the nominating committee as it pertains to the 2023 ASALH election, and that the chair of the governance committee and Vice President of Membership assume roles as co-chairs of this newly formed special committee.

- I move that a special and temporary committee be formed to conduct the remaining business of the nominating committee regarding the 2023 ASALH election, and that the chair of the governance committee and Vice President of Membership be appointed as co-chairs of this special and temporary committee, given the sensitive nature of the election, and recent violations of the ASALH constitution by members of the ASALH Executive Council as it pertains to the 2023 election, and that any appointments to this special committee be first approved by the Executive Council.

Motion: It was moved by Jarvis Givens and seconded by Valerie Holt.

The committee discussed the substance of the motion and voted.

The motion passed with 7 approving, 1 dissenting, and 3 abstentions.

A motion to render a “vote of no confidence” in President Marvin Dulaney.

- *I move that the Executive Council render a vote of no confidence in President Marvin Dulaney for the following reasons:*
 1. *For violating the ASALH constitution by attempting to unilaterally overturn a majority vote by the Executive Council regarding “the manner” in which the 2023 ASALH Election was to take place, specifically the process for approving a slate of candidates to be placed on the ballot, despite the fact that the Executive Council’s chosen manner for the election process was consistent with ASALH’s election process for well over a decade.*
 2. *For disparaging the ASALH executive council at a public forum by communicating that this body attempted to illegally remove individuals from the ASALH election process, while failing to provide a constitutional basis for such claims or appropriate context explaining the purpose of the Executive Council’s practice of vetting and approving candidates as part of the election process, or the longstanding history of conducting the election process in this manner.*
 3. *For President Dulaney’s refusal to respond to executive council members’ requests for information regarding the attorney he spoke with on the subject of the ASALH election process or to provide any documentation of this attorney’s rationale which purportedly informed President Dulaney’s attempt to overturn the ASALH Executive Council’s vote to approve a slate of candidates.*
 4. *For failing to provide the governance committee with documentation regarding the interview protocol and selection process for the new editor of the Journal of African American History, despite the governance committee being charged with this responsibility by a majority vote of the Executive Council in February 2023.*
 5. *For his dismissive posture and actions when members of the executive council have raised pressing concerns about his actions and their violation of the ASALH constitution, which has led to a culture of distrust and disarray among the current ASALH executive council and the general membership.*

In rendering this vote of no confidence, this body is also communicating that any future action that goes counter to the will of the executive council will leave us no other option than to move towards impeachment.

In discussion of this motion, the Board hopes that the President will see this motion as a turning point where the voices and subsequent votes of the Executive Council are not optional and must be followed. We believe that such acceptance will allow all to proceed with comity and mutual understanding that all members of the Executive Council are bound by our Constitution and By-laws.

Motion: It was moved by Jarvis Givens and seconded by Jeffery Banks

The motion passed 8 approving, 1 dissenting, and 3 abstentions.