



# Increasing SA Transparency using Electronic Voting

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# Background

- This initiative was created in an effort to increase our profile as a student organization and further build trust with the people we serve.
- Initially started with using iClicker to vote, then expanded with other ways to vote using “electronic device”
- Originally, presented in Sept. 2019. Last significant event was in Dec. 2019.



# Initiative diagram

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## Develop

Develop an idea. Identify and resolve as many potential problems as you can.

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## Share

Share with others. Start small, then go big.



## Analyze Results

What was the feedback from the initiative? How can we improve it? Do we need to wait for the idea to mature?

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## Execute

Try out the idea. Identify unforeseen problems and reactions.

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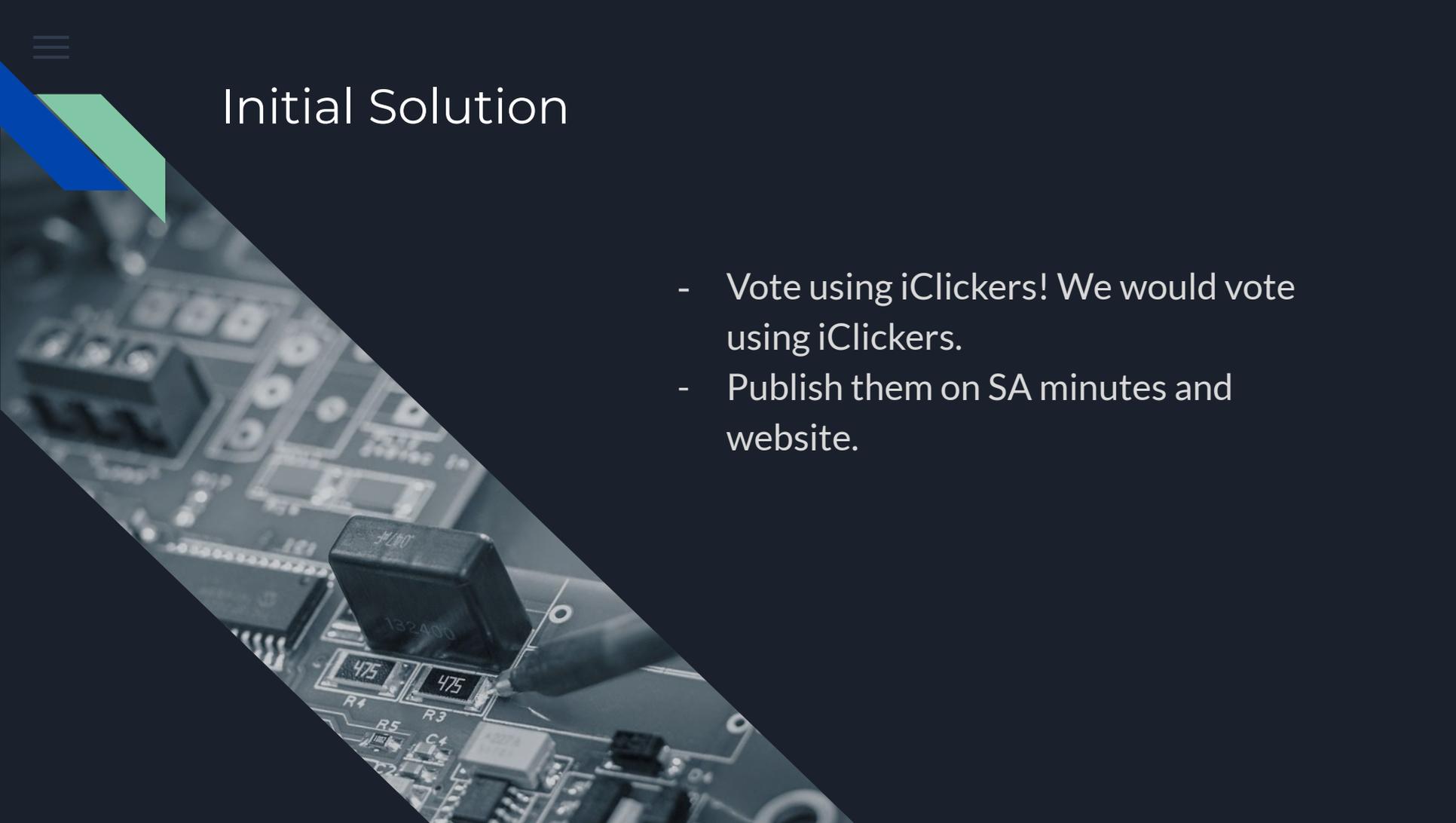


# Problems with current voting system

- 01 Does not scale: Becomes more difficult to count votes accurately if the Assembly becomes larger in the future.
- 02 De facto secrecy: Low attendance at (most) SA meetings mean that many of our votes are not known. People know how the SA voted, but not how individual representatives voted.
- 03 Promotes chilling effect: Encourages people to vote with “majority” even though they have a different opinion.



# Initial Solution

- Vote using iClickers! We would vote using iClickers.
  - Publish them on SA minutes and website.
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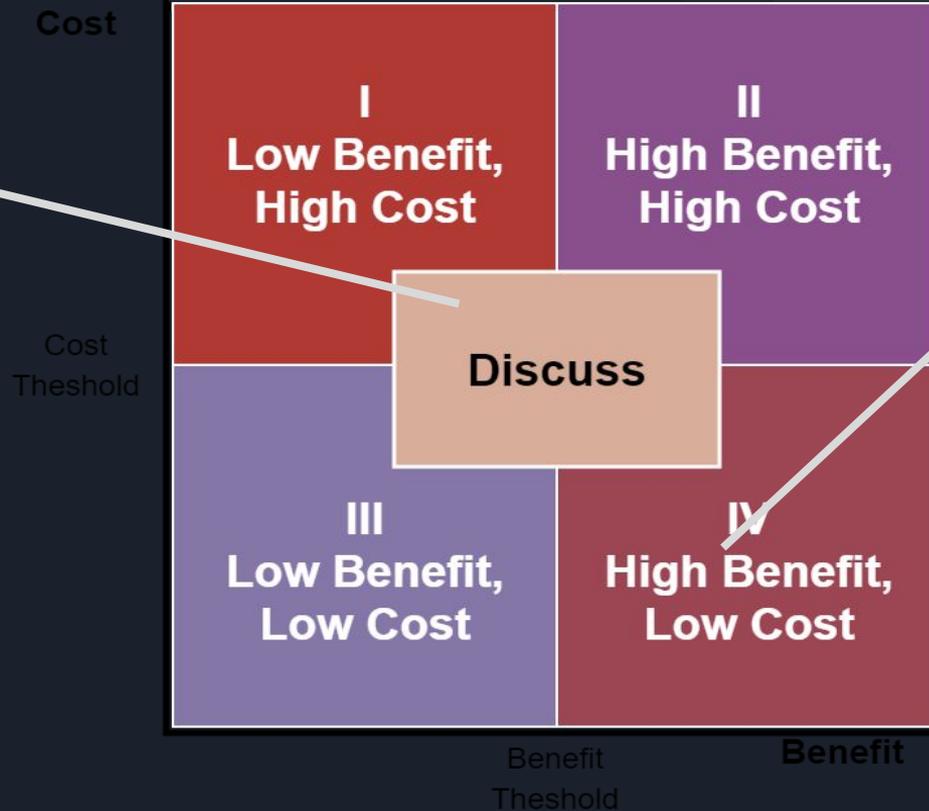


## Problems with iClicker

- Votes were not displayed at the time of the meeting, had to look to next week's agenda or meeting for the results
- How to handle roll call votes?
- How to vote to conduct secret ballots?
- No specific timetable for implementation caused fatigue among SA.
- Cost-benefit analysis: Need to provide more benefits the justify monetary and nonmonetary costs. Goal: Minimize C/B.

# Cost-Benefit Analysis

We're currently here



We want to get here (or at least somewhere close to it)

# Solution: Specialized Clickers

- iClicker is too general, need something specific to government and politics.
- Buy specialized clickers from Meridia Interactive Solutions!





## Why Meridia?

- Everything (clickers, software, etc.) is provided for us. No recurring fees, just pay for additional clickers as SA grows larger.
- Application (next slide) enables votes to be displayed in real time.
- Speakers list in real time, no more figuring out where you are on the speaker's list.
- Easy attendance taking: start meetings more efficiently.
- Lifetime support (can get support directly from company rather than rely on members with tech knowledge).

# Voting Screen

**Amendment to Proposal to Release School Funds**

Total: **9**

Yes: 6  
No: 2  
Abs: 1

Pg # 1/1    Demo Mode    Simple Majority (51% needed)    Poll: Passed    Polling Status: Closed

Press Spacebar to close the poll

Name	Keypad ID	Vote
Peter Denton	1	Yes
Jane Long	3	Yes
Teresa Hannah Magnificent	5	Yes
Mitch O'Rourke	7	Yes
Larry Osbourne	9	Yes
John Miskiewitz	2	No
Mike Short	4	No
Lucy Bloomberg	6	Yes
Joe Umwalt	8	No

# Speakers List

EZ-VOTE Connect v3.0.118.0

Topic: **Amendment to Proposal to Release School Funds** [Back To List](#)

**Press 1/Yes to Speak in Favor**  
Press it again to be removed

**Press 2/No to Speak to Oppose**  
Press it again to be removed

Speaking In Favor	Speaking To Oppose
 <b>John Misklewitz</b> Keypad ID: 2	 <b>Patricio Kaufman</b> Keypad ID: 27
 <b>Teresa Hannah Magnificent</b> Keypad ID: 5	 <b>Björn Janković</b> Keypad ID: 30
 <b>Lucy Bloomberg</b> Keypad ID: 6	 <b>Bobbie Green</b> Keypad ID: 32
 <b>Larry Osbourne</b> Keypad ID: 9	 <b>Barry Harper</b> Keypad ID: 34
 <b>Michael Landy</b> Keypad ID: 10	 <b>Suzanne King</b> Keypad ID: 36
 <b>Jill Novak</b> Keypad ID: 13	 <b>Marc Cannon</b> Keypad ID: 39
 <b>Ursula Dietrich</b> Keypad ID: 15	 <b>Hector Grant</b> Keypad ID: 40

# Clicker Designs



- Each takes 5 or more options (depending on model)
- Fully customizable design (for a fee, more on that later)



## Cost Breakdown

- 28 clickers x \$40/clicker = \$1120
- 1 USB Receiver/Base Station = \$365
- Shipping is \$40
- Discount Provided was \$250
  
- Total Cost =  $1120 + 365 + 40 - 250 = \$1275$



## Next Steps

- Determine how to integrate with current SA Rules (motions, secret ballot, etc.).
- Figure out where to place screen so community can see votes.
- Introduce resolution that will not only make the logistical changes necessary, but also secure funding to buy the equipment.



# Timing

- First 2 Sprints After Feb Break: Determine how to integrate this with SA Procedures/Rules (already have a framework for this from last sem., just need to iterate over it.)
- By the end of March: Have a resolution written that legislates the logistic needed and secures funding.