

Faculty Senate Committee on Rules
Response to Charges

Rules Committee members: Seth Hoelscher (chair), Terrel Gallaway, Kartik Ghosh, Beth Walker, Lanya Lamouria (*ex officio*), Cindy MacGregor (*ex officio*)

Recommendation by Committee

Charge # 6

Review ART I, SEC 4 to Clarify when Terms of Office for Senate Officers Begins

ART 1, SEC 4 details the process by which Senate officers are elected, but except in cases of an unexpected vacancy (SEC 4J) does not detail when officers terms of office start. Standing practice has been that officers' terms begin immediately after the conclusion of the April session in which they are elected, so that the May session is presided over by the new Chair and the new Chair-Elect and Secretary are in office as well. We ask that Rules consider language to clarify this standing practice.

Current Language of the Bylaws

ART I FACULTY SENATE

SEC 4 Election of Officers – Faculty Senate

- A Faculty are eligible for the position of Chair-Elect or Secretary of the Faculty if (1) by the time they assume office they will have completed at least one year of service (may or may not be continuous) in the Faculty Senate as a voting member during the previous six academic years, and (2) they are tenured before the September session of their term. Heads of academic departments are not eligible candidates for the positions of Chair-Elect and the Secretary of the Faculty.
- B No later than February the Chair-Elect shall appoint and chair the Nominating Committee, which must contain a total of at least three members, all of whom are ranked, tenured faculty eligible to be senators (ignoring term limits). The current Senate Chair and Parliamentarian may not be appointed, nor may the current Secretary of the Faculty if he or she intends to run for either office. The committee shall nominate one eligible candidate for Chair-Elect and one eligible candidate for Secretary of the Faculty, both of whom accept their nomination and agree to serve if elected. The committee may not nominate the same person for both offices. No later than the March session, the Chair-Elect shall make a report to the Senate identifying the members of the committee and presenting its nominees.
- C Senators shall be free to nominate eligible candidates at the March session or by submitting nominations, with an appropriate second, to the Secretary of the Faculty no later than April 1. Since the Senate benefits from having a strong and diverse slate of candidates, it is desirable that at least one nomination for each office come from the floor so that the candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee do not run unopposed.
- D Candidates for Chair-Elect and Secretary of the Faculty shall submit a statement of purpose not to exceed 300 words to the Faculty Senate office for distribution no later than April 3. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in the withdrawal of the candidate from the election.

- E Candidates for Chair-Elect and Secretary of the Faculty shall participate in a Candidate Forum which will be held during the April session after announcements and approval of the minutes of the March session.
- F After the Candidate Forum is concluded, senators shall vote by secret ballot for offices with at least two candidates. Unopposed candidates are automatically elected without vote.
- G The winners must receive an absolute majority of the votes cast. In the event that no candidate receives a majority vote the two candidates receiving the most votes will participate in a run-off. The run-off vote will also occur at the April session.
- H The Chair-Elect shall become Chair after serving a one-year term.
- I In case a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair, the Chair-Elect shall become Chair. The Chair and/or Chair-Elect and/or Secretary of the Faculty will immediately vacate their office upon accepting an oral or written offer to become an administrator, at the level of academic department head or higher.
- J In case a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair-Elect or Secretary of the Faculty, the Faculty Senate shall elect a new Chair-Elect or Secretary of the Faculty at the next session of the Faculty Senate. Notification of the pending election shall be made as a part of the agenda for the session. The nominations and election will be held immediately following the approval of the minutes and announcements. Nominees must meet the criteria as established in Article I, Sec 4, Part A of these Bylaws. Any Senator may nominate a candidate or self-nominate. Nominees must accept the nomination and be seconded by a Senator. Once all nominees have been identified they will participate in a Candidate Forum to be held immediately following the nominating process. Following the Candidate Forum a vote shall be conducted following the criteria established in Article I, Sec 4, Parts F-G of these Bylaws. The newly elected officer shall immediately begin service in the elected office. If such a vacancy occurs after the agenda is set for the final spring-semester session of the Faculty Senate and before the Monday preceding the first day of fall semester classes, the Chair of the Faculty Senate shall ask the immediate Past Chair to serve in the capacity of the vacated office on an interim basis and only until

a new officer is elected during the first Senate session of the fall semester. If the immediate Past Chair is unable or unwilling to serve, then the Chair will ask the Chair-Elect or Secretary of the Faculty Senate (depending on the vacated office) to serve in the capacity of the vacated office on an interim basis and only until a new officer is elected during the first Senate session of the fall semester. The Chair of the Faculty Senate shall notify all Senators of the interim appointment.

- K The removal of a Chair, Chair-Elect, or Secretary of the Faculty from office is initiated by submitting a petition signed by at least 25% of the voting Senate membership; at that time, the issue shall be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Senate session. The office will become vacant if a two-thirds vote approves the motion to remove the officer and such votes account for at least a majority of the voting Senate membership.

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws
(**bold** indicates additions & ~~strike through~~ indicates deletions)

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