

## Rules Committee (RC)

November 17, 2021

The committee reviewed the entirety of the proposed changes to the chairperson document for accuracy, etc... as we did this a few lingering issues came up” Which we felt we needed some additional guidance from the Executive Board:

- 1.) Should there be references to Division Directors in the document. (There are some there but the committee couldn't ascertain whether they would actually be needed or not?? Do they have chairs? I haven't gotten a clear answer on this from other sources like AAUP..)
- 2.) Under the (Article II section E) “Terms of office of department chairperson”:

This article currently reads:

“2. If a vacancy occurs during a term of office, a newly elected Department Chairperson shall serve for the remainder of the academic year in which the vacancy occurs plus a term of the next three academic years. If the vacancy occurs suddenly, selection procedures in step G. and following shall be expedited with final selection taking place within thirty calendar days from the date of the vacancy. If necessary, during this time period while a new Department Chairperson is being selected, the University President in consultation with the Provost and appropriate Dean may appoint a member in an acting capacity to fill the vacancy.”

**The committee was unanimous in proposing to eliminate “plus a term of the next three academic years.” The committee felt that having an abridged election process (in the cases of a vacancy the article is referring too) that any member elected that way should not serve a full three-year term in addition to the remainder of the academic year.**

We are proposing a few different possible changes to fix this:

a.) If a vacancy occurs during a term of office, a newly elected Department Chairperson shall serve for the remainder of the academic year in which the vacancy occurs. When a vacancy occurs, selection procedures in step G. and following shall be expedited with final election taking place within thirty calendar days from the date of the vacancy. If necessary, during this time period while a new Department Chairperson is being elected, the University President in consultation with the Provost and appropriate Dean shall appoint a member in an acting capacity to fill the vacancy in the interim.

(we also were a little split here on the timetable and going through step G “quickly”... so we came up with below:)

b.) If a vacancy occurs during a term of office, a newly elected Department chairperson shall serve for the remainder of the academic year in which the vacancy occurs. The department shall

elect via secret ballot, within thirty calendar days from the date of the vacancy, one of its' members for this provisional position by a simple majority. If the department cannot elect one of its' members due to a lack of majority, the University President in consultation with the Provost and the appropriate Dean can appoint a provisional chairperson to serve the remainder of the academic year.

Finally, the rules committee was looking into the question If a vacancy occurs with less than 30 days left in the spring semester?? How does a department have an election within 30 days if there is less than 30 days left in the semester and members will not be on contract? We were also concerned about vacancies during summer since an election would be difficult with department members def. being officially off contract..

Motion to adjourn 1:48 pm.....

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jeffrey A. Webb