

Faculty Senate Elections Committee Minutes

08/21/2008

A meeting of the Elections Committee was convened at 11:35a.m.

Elections Committee members present were, Senate Alternate Teresa Winterhalter (substituting for Jack Simmons), Senator Greg Wimer, and Senator Vann Scott, Chair

Purpose of the meeting: Discuss replacement of Erik Nordenhaug on the Graduate Affairs Committee as an at-large member and the procedure for conducting a Special Election in order to replace Dr. Beth Howells on the University Curriculum Committee.

Vann Scott explained the reasons for the change to: the Graduate Affairs Committee – Erik Nordenhaug had been deemed ineligible due to lapse of his graduate faculty status. The nominees to replace him on the committee were Dr. Sabitra Brush of Chem/Phys. and Dr. Carol Andrews of Lit., Lang., Phil – both of whom expressed an interest in serving on the committee. It was discussed that despite both Brush and Andrews having graduate faculty status and having experience with graduate students and the former Graduate Council, perhaps Dr. Andrews would be the best choice given that Dr. Brush was already serving on a subcommittee of the Graduate Affairs Committee. Additionally, Teresa Winterhalter pointed out that the renewal requirement was almost certainly disbanded last year, in which case E.N.'s "recent lapse" was a non-event and should not affect his ability to serve. Vann Scott and the committee members agreed that he would follow-up with Erik to determine his willingness to serve. If he was unwilling to serve, then Dr. Andrews would become the at-large member of the GAC.

And the change to: the University Curriculum Committee was necessitated by Dr Howells' departure to the College of Liberal Arts' Dean's Office. This move left a vacancy on the UCC for the 4th member of COLA on the committee. Senate Bylaws election procedure for the UCC stipulates that no two members of the same department may serve on the committee, leaving only LLP and CJ, Soc, & Political Science as potential pools for the nominees. As a courtesy to the departments' Department Heads and believing they would be responsive to the request to provide nominees in rapid fashion so that the UCC would be fully staffed going into its meeting on Wed. Aug. 27 where its chair would be elected, the Elections Committee decided to route the request for nominations to the faculty of LLP and CJ, SOC, PS via Dept. Heads Wheeler and Wilson. Sending the request through departmental Senators was briefly considered and then rejected as possibly less efficient than the D.H. route considering the urgency of the work.

Summary of the Special Elections Process established by the Elections Committee:

In order to rapidly conduct a college wide election for the COLA to place one representative from either LLP **OR** CJ, SOC, PS on the UCC, the committee decided to seek nominations from those faculty through their respective department heads who would request their faculty to route **AT LEAST** one nomination (purportedly via email)

to the DHs who would in turn route them to Dr. Vann Scott, Faculty Senate Elections Committee Chair. Once nominations were received, a slate of candidates would be placed on electronic ballots located on a commercially available survey web site (Survey Monkey) and ALL eligible COLA faculty would receive an email with a link to the site that would allow them to vote one time only for one candidate. Voting would commence ASAP after receipt of nominations from the respective DHs and would be kept open as long as possible in order to balance the competing desires to maximize the opportunity for each member of the COLA faculty to vote but also allow enough time to notify the election winner in order that he/she be available to attend the next UCC meeting where its chair will be decided by private ballot vote (6 calendar days from this date).

Finally members of the Elections Committee were asked to provide the Chair of the Elections Committee with a list of times and days of availability in order to facilitate standing scheduled meetings where urgent business could be addressed without the need to call meetings on very short notice which has resulted in two of the five members missing meetings due to previously scheduled obligations. Members agreed that standing meetings would be helpful and that they would provide times of availability.

Finally, Senator Greg Wimer agreed to serve as the Secretary to record minutes during future Elections Committee meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46am.

Respectfully submitted,

Vann Scott, Ph.D., Faculty Senate Elections Committee Chair