Proposed By-law Changes

TO: The University Senate

FROM: The Nominating Committee

SUBJECT: Bylaws of the University Senate

DISPOSITION: University Senate Document 15-7 for Discussion

RATIONALE: Recent questions to the Nominating Committee suggest that changes to the Bylaws are needed to clarify senator elections

Presented by: Natalie Carroll & Michael Hill, Co-Chairs
Bylaw changes recommended:

- Two-term limit for a senator serving as a replacement for another faculty member (for example, while a senator is on sabbatical)

- Eligibility to serve as faculty representatives on the PU Senate

- Eligibility for service as Senate Vice-Chair and Chair

- Specify that elections of senators must take place via secret ballot of the faculty

Note: The Nominating Committee voted 5 to 4 in favor of these changes. The major concern of those voting against the document was with respect to the eligibility of faculty to serve on the senate.
Recommended Bylaw changes:

2.03 Election of Senators

The normal term of an elected senator shall be three years, beginning on the June 1 following his/her election. A Senator can serve no more than 2 consecutive terms (3 years each) on Senate, with the exception of one or two semesters served as a replacement, for a maximum of 8 semesters of continuous service, unless elected as PU Senate Vice-Chair. In the event a Senator does not complete his or her term, a replacement Senator shall be elected for the remainder of the original term. After reapportionment of the senate in November, the individual faculties (see Section 2.00 b 5) will complete the election of senators who are to assume office on the coming June 1, and report the results to the secretary of the senate by February 1. The individual faculties will set up their own methods for nomination and election of senators. Each faculty unit will request nominations – either self-nominated or by a nomination by a colleague and agreement by the nominee. Only faculty in the categories of Tenure track and Clinical Track are eligible for election to the Purdue University Senate. Only faculty with a rank less than Department Head, or Associate or Assistant Department Heads with less than 50% commitment to academic administrative duties, are eligible to serve as senators. Election must be by secret ballot (paper or online). Faculty units may provide alternates to serve, if an elected senator is unable to serve temporarily, or to replace a senator recalled on request of the senate.
Recommended Bylaw changes:

3.20 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the University Senate

b) At the regular February meeting of the University Senate the Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two members of the University Senate for the office of vice chairperson. Additional nominations shall be accepted from the floor at any time before the election. Nominees must be elected senators and members of the voting faculty with professorial rank.
Proposed:
• The normal term of an elected senator shall be three years, beginning on the June 1 following his/her election. A Senator can serve no more than 2 consecutive terms (3 years each) on Senate, with the exception of one or two semesters served as a replacement, for a maximum of 8 semesters of continuous service, unless elected as PU Senate Vice-Chair.

Why?
• If someone serves the remaining 2 semesters of a Senator’s term, shouldn’t the individual be allowed to stand for elections as if the remaining term didn’t occur?

Why not?
• Because the senate voted on a 2-term rule, limiting total semesters to 6.
  • But the issue of completing terms of other Senators was mute in the By-laws
Change 2

Proposed

• The individual faculties will set up their own methods for nomination and election of senators. Each faculty unit will request nominations – either self-nominated or by a nomination by a colleague and agreement by the nominee........

• Election must be by secret ballot (paper or online). They Faculty units may provide alternates to serve,........

Why?

• Some Senators were concerned that administrators in a few colleges appointed Senators
  • In a simple Qualtrics survey of Senators, Hill found that among the respondents, 18% indicated that they were nominated by Department Heads

• The objective is to ensure that the non-administrative faculty nominate Senators, making it a democratic process across the board

• For volunteers, we believe that a secret ballot conforms to the developing process of secret votes in the Senate
How were you nominated?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Self</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>By colleague(s)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>By department head</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>By your Dean</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Change 3

• Only faculty in the categories of Tenure track and Clinical Track are eligible for election to the Purdue University Senate. Only faculty with a rank less than Department Head, or Associate or Assistant Department Heads with less than 50% commitment to academic administrative duties, are eligible to serve as senators.

Why?

• At what point does administrative duty supersede simple responsibility as a Senator, representing the general faculty viewpoint?

Vote:

• Majority for change as presented
  • Minority was for only barring faculty with administrative responsibility of Dean and above
Concerns with Possible Conflict Of Interest:

• If a line manager (involved with the Senate) and a Senator from the same institutional unit vehemently disagree with proposed upper administrative changes in a public forum
  • Might the Senator be put at risk of reprisal?
  • What impact might that have on promotion, tenure, salary increases etc?

• One Assistant Department Head, who had served as a Senator, considered that there was conflict of interest

• One Department Head, when promoted, admitted that they did not have the time to devote to Senate duties (should include involvement with Senate Standing Committees) and regretted that they did not resign when appointed as Head
Change 4

• Nominees must be elected senators and members of the voting faculty with professorial rank.

Why?
• The By-laws could be interpreted in various ways as written
  • For example, should a representative of the student body be able to serve as chair of the Senate?
The revised Bylaws would read (1):

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The normal term of an elected senator shall be three years, beginning on the June 1 following his/her election. A Senator can serve no more than 2 consecutive terms (3 years each) on Senate, with the exception of one or two semesters served as a replacement, for a maximum of 8 semesters of continuous service, unless elected as PU Senate Vice-Chair.

In the event a Senator does not complete his or her term, a replacement Senator shall be elected for the remainder of the original term. After reapportionment of the senate in November, the individual faculties (see Section 2.00 b 5) will complete the election of senators who are to assume office on the coming June 1, and report the results to the secretary of the senate by February 1.
The revised Bylaws would read (2):

2.03 Election of Senators

Each faculty unit will request nominations – either self-nominated or by a nomination by a colleague and agreement by the nominee. Only faculty in the categories of Tenure track and Clinical Track are eligible for election to the Purdue University Senate.

Only faculty with a rank less than Department Head, or Associate or Assistant Department Heads with less than 50% commitment to academic administrative duties, are eligible to serve as senators. Election must be by secret ballot (paper or online). Faculty units may provide alternates to serve, if an elected senator is unable to serve temporarily, or to replace a senator recalled on request of the senate.
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Questions?    Comments?