

Background:

The University Senate directed the Senate Council to develop revised language for the Senate Rules concerning the election of the Senate Council Chair. The Senate Council on 10/17/11 adopted new rule language (below) and asked the Senate Rules and Elections Committee to offer editorial assistance to that language. The document below is the Senate Council's adopted language with 'track changes' on the editorial aspects offered here by the Senate Rules and Elections Committee.

Recommendation:

The Senate Rules and Elections Committee recommends that the Senate Council incorporate the editorial suggestions offered below.

Proposed New Senate Rules Language Concerning Election of Senate Council Chair (10/17/11)

1.3.1.3.A Senate Council Chair

In November preceding the academic year during which the Senate Council Chair shall serve, the elected faculty senators will be asked to nominate at least two current elected faculty members of the [Senate Council](#) to serve as [Senate Council](#) Chair. The SREC Chair will ascertain willingness of these nominees to serve. Should more than one nominee be willing to serve if elected, the nominees will [be offered an opportunity to](#) provide an up to 200 word election statement, and this that will be distributed to the elected faculty senators two weeks before the election. The elected faculty senators will then be given the opportunity to express their opinions of the nominees to the [Senate Council](#) via email solicitation. The [Senate Council](#) will consider this feedback in electing the next [Senate Council](#) Chair in [the](#) December preceding the June 1 start date.

If there is a tie then the elected faculty senators will vote to break the tie. If there is only one nominee who agrees to serve, then the election shall be declared completed and this person shall be the [Senate Council](#) Chair-elect, and the University Senate notified.

Terms of office:
(no change)

C. Chair-elect

The Chair-elect or a Chair re-elected to a second term shall take office as [Senate Council](#) Chair on the following June 1st and serve through May 31st of the next year. A member of the Senate Council is not eligible while on sabbatical ~~to serve~~ for election as [e](#)Chair-elect, but a person who has replaced the member on sabbatical on the [Senate Council](#) is eligible to be elected as [e](#)Chair-elect. The [Senate Council](#) Chair-elect will be given the opportunity ~~for orientation purposes~~ to shadow the current [Senate Council](#) Chair during the 6 months preceding the Senate Council Chair-elect assuming the office. [In the Chair-elect's capacity as an Officer of the Senate Council \(SR 1.3.1.3.C\), the Chair-elect is a nonvoting member of the Senate Council.](#)

Senate Council

1.3.1.2.A Elected Faculty Membership

3. Election. Elections shall be conducted by electronic secret ballot or paper secret ballot if electronic election is not feasible. Three (3) elected faculty representatives in the University Senate shall be elected annually during the fall semester to serve on the Senate Council. The election shall be conducted under the supervision of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee, [who shall remind the voters that election to the Senate Council confers eligibility for election to Senate Council Chair the following year.](#)

Current Rules

1.3.1.3 Officers of the Senate Council [US: 9/8/97]

A. Senate Council Chair

The Senate Council shall elect its Chair in December preceding the academic year during which the Chair shall serve. All nine of the elected faculty representatives then serving on the Senate Council shall be eligible for election to the position.[]

B. Chair-elect

The Chair-elect or a Chair reelected to a second term shall take office as Chair on the following June 1st and serve through May 31st of the next year. A member of the Senate Council is not eligible while on sabbatical to serve as chair-elect but a person who has replaced the member on sabbatical on the Council is eligible to be elected as chair-elect.