

Senate Council
August 15, 2008

Change to Chair's Term of Office

Background: At the Senate Council retreat on July 11, 2008, Chair Randall shared with SC members his intent to pursue, with appropriate SC approval, a change to the *Senate Rules (SR)* regarding the term of office for the SC chair.

Currently there is an SC member elected to the vice chair position for one year, and an SC member elected to the chair position for one year. After the term of office of the chair is over, the chair remains a member of the SC as the "immediate past chair."

The suggestion is to change the chair's term to that of a three-year term. An SC member interested in running for chair would commit to a staged, three-year term. Upon winning the election, the individual would hold a position of "chair-elect." After that year was completed, the individual would hold the position of "chair." At the end of the one-year time frame in which the individual is chair of the SC, the SC member would then hold the position of "immediate past chair."

Issues for discussion:

1. Would this type of change in term of office help with continuity?
2. How would the position of vice chair be affected?
3. How (and would) the chair be allowed to run for what is know now as a "second term"?
4. Other questions?

Recommendation: *assuming that this idea is acceptable, the SC should move to direct the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee to create language to affect this change and bring such language back to the SC by December 2008 for further deliberation.*