

Part VII of the Faculty Handbook

Section VII.B.

Current Language

2a. Elected Members

a. Eligibility -- Full-time faculty members as defined in Article II, Section B, all department chairs regardless of teaching load, and full-time faculty holding visiting rank shall be eligible for election to the Senate.

Suggested Revision

2a. Elected Members

a. Eligibility -- Full-time faculty members as defined in Article II, Section B, all department chairs regardless of teaching load, and full-time faculty holding visiting rank, **that have been employed as full-time faculty members at Eastern Kentucky for a minimum of two years**, shall be eligible for election to the Senate.

Rationale: Membership in the faculty senate is an important responsibility, requiring both knowledge of the university organization and administrative procedures and the willingness to speak openly about university issues without fear of repercussions. Faculty members who have not been at the university for at least two years often are not knowledgeable of the university organization and administration and are also often reticent to speak openly about university issues because they fear repercussions from others within the university. Requiring faculty to have been at the university in a full-time faculty position for three years will obviate some of these pressures and create more knowledgeable freshman senators who are willing to raise their voice in disagreement to represent their constituents.

Section VII.B.

Current Language

2f. Except for the member elected from the Deans' Unit and the member elected from the Part-time Faculty, whose terms are two years, elected members shall serve for a term of three years; however, if an elected member ceases to be a full-time member in the election unit from which elected, a vacancy shall be declared.

Suggested Revision

2f. Except for the member elected from the Deans' Unit and the member elected from the Part-time Faculty, whose terms are two years, elected members shall serve for a term of three years. **Elected members shall serve no more than two consecutive terms; eligible members must then forego membership for one term before being eligible for senate election again. If a senator is elected as chair of the senate at the end of their second term, they can then serve a third term before stepping down.** However, if an elected member ceases to be a full-time member in the election unit from which elected, a vacancy shall be declared.

Rationale: The proposed term limits serve two functions. First, they provide for a regular change in membership from each department so new ideas and new perspectives can be regularly added to the faculty senate. Secondly, they also encourage faculty members throughout the university to become engaged in the faculty senate and thus have a better understanding and a greater interest in the functions of the senate. As such, term limits will strengthen the faculty senate and provide greater faculty ownership of the senate throughout the university.