

Report of the Senate Rules Committee

Monday, March 6, 2006

The Rules Committee has opted to review the two motions put forth by the Ad Hoc Committee on Term Limits because the committee felt strongly that these motions dealt with the rules of the senate and that the committee should put forth a statement concerning these motions. The Rules Committee of the Faculty Senate unanimously recommends against the passage of the following two motions.

Concerning the revision in Section VII.B, 2f:

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.

The Rules Committee believes that there is not a strong enough precedent in Benchmark Universities (only 5 of 19 have term limits) to warrant such a change in rules for our Faculty Senate. We also feel very strongly in the primacy of departments. If term limits are something that a department wishes to have, then it is up to the department to implement such a stipulation. It should not be the Faculty Senate who stipulates how long a representative should serve his/her department. This dictates to departments from the top down and is undemocratic. This motion if implemented could also create a loss of institutional memory with too much turnover and the committee believes that one way to weaken a legislative body is to have too much turn over.

Concerning the revision in Section VII.B, 2a:

Current Language

2a. Elected Members

a. Eligibility -- Full-time faculty members as defined in Article 11, 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 minimum of two years,** shall be eligible for election to the Senate.

Most of what was stated above, especially departmental primacy, applies to this motion as well with the addition of delaying new hires of faculty in mid career from bringing their experiences and knowledge while serving in other institutions and their faculty senates. It would also prevent new young faculty from experiencing the workings of the university and senate and using it as a learning experience. This is a wonderful way to show new hires the importance of shared governance.

The Senate Rules Committee believes that both of these motions could put undue hardships on small departments.

The Rules Committee continues to work on updates to the Faculty Senate section of the Faculty Handbook. We are also working on a revision concerning lecturer positions for the faculty handbook.

Respectfully submitted by:

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