Faculty Senate Issue Log Form

Title of Issue: Voting for Promotion to Full Professor by Representatives of Ad Hoc Department/School Promotion Committees

Description: When there is not a sufficient number of full professors in a department/school to create a committee to review a faculty member’s application for promotion to full professor, there is a policy in the Handbook describing how a review committee may be formed, as well as how that review committee should elect a representative to serve on the college committee. What is unclear is whether that elected representative should serve only in the case of the applicant for promotion from that department or if that representative should also review other applications for full professor from that college.

Rationale: I believe it would be helpful to have greater clarity in the Handbook about the role to be played by the elected representative in the above case.

Name: Kate Hawkins
Department: Vice Provosts
Date: 1/11/2019
Signature: Katherine Hawkins

Proposal by Committee F:
It is the sense of the committee that each department elects ONE member to the college promotion and tenure committee for a given academic year, as spelled out in the handbook. This member will ONLY be replaced in case of, and only for the duration of, any deliberations for promotion to FULL professor of a member of this department if the regular elected representative is not a Full Professor. During such deliberations, the regular elected representative from that department should recuse him/herself; however, after conclusion of the specific promotion case in the college committee, there is no further role for the replacement representative and she or he will be replaced by the regular representative. If a college committee representative elected regularly by the department will be absent for an extended period of time, the department should elect a replacement that will take her/his place until her/his return.

The policy on Promotion has been amended to reflect this. It also now contains a clarifying sentence for all votes – wherever it says the votes must be by secret ballot, this is followed with “after participating (either in person or remotely) in the deliberation of the committee. Proxy votes or votes submitted by non-secure means (e.g., email or communication accessible to a third party) are not permitted.”

This same change has been added where appropriate to the policy on tenure, and the requirement of a “in person ballot” has been removed.