

Chair policy recommendations

4.13 Chair Policy and Procedures

This policy was last revised November 15, 2011. Since then the role of NTT faculty has changed. Some department across campus currently have, or recently had, NTT faculty serving in Department Chair roles. The language regarding eligibility no longer aligns with the reality of updated faculty positions.

Current policy on eligibility

4.13.1.C Eligibility for Chair

No eligibility requirements as to age or length of University service are recommended. However, in no instance may a nominee for the position of chair be of a rank less than assistant professor, but the electorate may by majority vote establish a policy further limiting eligibility requirements.

Draft updated language regarding eligibility

No eligibility requirements as to age or length of University service are recommended. ~~However, in no instance may a nominee for the position of chair be of a rank less than assistant professor, but the electorate may by majority vote establish a policy further limiting eligibility requirements.~~ Any full-time member of the faculty, as defined by the Faculty Senate Constitution, may serve as department chair.

Rationale

According to University policy, no such rank exists (i.e., “less than assistant professor”). It is assumed that this language referred to NTT faculty in general. Additionally, because the electorate already vote to choose a chair, a provision for the electorate to limit eligibility is redundant and not productive.

Current policy on Electorate

4.13.1.E Electorate

The electorate for nominating a department chair shall, as a minimum, include all those serving as full-time (1.0 EFT) professors, associate professors, assistant professors and tenured instructors, who provide at least 50 percent of their University duties within the department. This group may, by majority vote, establish as a policy the extension of the electorate to (but no farther than) all those in the department enfranchised to vote under the Faculty Senate Constitution.

Draft updated language regarding the Electorate

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Rationale

NTT faculty are often reviewed only by the department chair (this is obviously department dependent) therefore they should be afforded the opportunity to weigh in on who serves in that position. The existing language explicitly excludes NTT faculty from voting in the chair election. It may be problematic in some departments to allow only the TT faculty to vote for chair and decide whether NTT should be included in the process. By opening the electorate up to align with the faculty senate, representation in the election matches the general makeup of the department.