

Senate Council
January 11, 2016

Chairs in Senate, from Retreat Discussions in 2014 and 2015

Snippet from 2014 retreat minutes:

There was a brief discussion about how current University regulations restrict department chairs and center directors from serving in the Senate and SC. Those SC members commenting were of the opinion that such a restriction limits some of the best faculty from participating in the SC and Senate and should be changed.

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Snippet from 2015 retreat minutes:

*Regarding getting the best senators, Kraemer asked if it was possible to revisit the relatively recent prohibition on department chairs serving in the Senate. If faculty are serious about the value of rich perspectives offered by shared governance, then there should be concerns that the entire department chair demographic is going untapped. The Chair noted that within the past year a fantastic SC member became a center director, which meant that the person had to immediately resign their SC and Senate positions. The Chair clarified that the prohibition is in the Senate Rules and as such the language could be rewritten to allow department chairs to serve. He also reported hearing concerns that department chairs were specifically excluded from the Senate, even though deans had formal participatory roles. There was a lot of discussion regarding the inclusion of department chairs and those offering an opinion were all supportive. SC members thought that department chair membership in the Senate could be set up like deans (automatic but with voting rights only every other year) or department chairs could simply be allowed to run for a seat like any other faculty member.*

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Snippet from *Senate Rules 1.2.2.1* (“Elected Faculty Member,” “Election”) [emphasis added]:

*Pursuant to recent changes in the last several years in Administrative Regulations on tenure-ineligible title series and on faculty members with certain administrative appointments, the following terms apply: (1) **Tenured faculty employees who have been appointed to an administrative position at or above the level of department chair are not eligible to participate in the election of faculty representatives, or serve as the elected faculty representative, to faculty governance bodies above the college level (e.g., Board of Trustees, University Senate, Graduate Council, Undergraduate Council, and Health Care Colleges Council)** (see HRPP 4.0); (2) Regular, full-time faculty employees in a tenure-ineligible series are not eligible for regularly assigned university-level service activities, except that the tenured/tenure-track faculty of a college may allow a tenure-ineligible series to be eligible to vote for representation, and stand for election, specifically to the University Senate, by extending College Faculty membership to that faculty series (to be documented in the College Rules; see AR 2.5, AR 2.6, AR 2.9 for more details). [4/4/11]*

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Snippet from UK’s *Human Resources Policies and Procedures 4.0* (“Employee Status”)

*Note: Faculty employees with administrative assignments at or above department chair are not eligible to participate in the election of faculty representatives, or serve as the elected faculty representative, to faculty governance bodies above the college level (for example, but not limited to, Board of Trustees, University Senate, Graduate Council, Undergraduate Council, and Health Care Colleges Council). Chairs and directors may run for election and serve in the University Senate as an elected representative of their constituent faculty, if their administrative service as chair or director concludes before the term of their service as a University Senator commences.*