



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

Elections Committee
Report to the Faculty Senate

Attendance: Cynthia Tysick (Chair), John Wilson (member), Richard Gronostajski (Parliamentarian)

Summary: The Elections Committee met on January 12, 2015 to discuss issues related to the election of faculty senate members, officers, SUNY senators, and voting timelines. Below is a summary of the key areas we discussed and, when necessary, our recommendations.

- During the fall semester it was discovered that past nominating practice for positions of Chair, Secretary, and SUNY senators did not follow Standing Orders sections D and E, which require nomination by five voting faculty (Faculty Senate Chair and Secretary) or five voting faculty or professional staff (SUNY senators positions). To address this issue for the fall, nominees were asked to solicit for the required five nominations within ten days in order to appear on the ballot. The elections committee has designed a “Nominating Petition” (Appendix i) that we suggest be used for all future calls for nominees.
- According to our Bylaws Article V number 4 all Electoral Units will follow cumulative voting procedures. After receiving a majority of responses back from Electoral Units it was discovered that this is not the case. The elections committee has designed a sample cumulative voting ballot (Appendix ii) that we would like to forward to all Electoral Units for future voting.
- According to our Standing Orders, Article VI E the Chair and Secretary are to serve two-year staggered terms. Somehow the upcoming Chair and Secretary (2015-2017) will be serving at the same time. The Elections Committee has two options; the incoming Secretary could elect to serve either a one year or three year term. The latter option is sticky and may require some type of referendum while the first option is voluntary.
- According to our Bylaws, Article IV number 2 the Elections Committee is to conduct a reapportionment of the faculty senate every five years. It seems that we have not been following that timeline because the last one was done in 2011-2012. We will go back to

the zero and five year cycle this spring. The new electoral basis will take effect at the start of the 2016-2017 academic year. Article IV number 4 of the Bylaws provides a clear formula for calculating the number of senators for each Electoral Unit. In the past the Office of Institutional Analysis used that formula to run a report and calculate the number of senators per unit for the Elections Committee. We would like to follow the same procedures for this new reapportionment.

- This fall we held an election for Chair and Secretary for 2015-2017. Dr. Phil Glick (Surgery & Management) was elected Chair with 106 votes and Cynthia Tysick (Libraries) was elected Secretary with 103 votes.
- The names of the incoming Chair and Secretary were announced to the voting faculty in December without the number of votes. The Elections Committee was asked to publicly give those numbers. In the past number of votes was disseminated through the Elections Committee report or an announcement by the Secretary at the following Faculty Senate meeting. There is nothing in our documents to give the committee direction; therefore, we are asking the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for comments and advice. When we announce the elections results should we give the number of votes for each candidate or just the winner?
- We are currently running an election to fill two vacancies on the University Faculty Senate (SUNY-wide) for a three year term, 2015-2018. Results are not yet available.
- The Elections Committee is currently only two people. Given the amount of work necessary to assure that elections at the unit and campus levels are done in a timely and appropriate manner we would like to have membership from each Electoral Unit. The Committee would accept a mix of faculty and professional staff membership; however, according to our Charter, Article VI, number 2, section B the Chair and a majority of the members shall be of the voting faculty.
- At the end of their two-year term of service each member and their immediate supervisor will receive a “thank you for your participation” letter.

Respectfully submitted 1/22/2015 by Cynthia Tysick FS Secretary and Elections Committee Chair

University at Buffalo Faculty Senate Nominating Form

The members of the University at Buffalo voting faculty listed below nominate:

_____ as a candidate for the position of
Chair/Secretary (circle one) of the University at Buffalo Faculty Senate for the two-year term
beginning 1 July, _____. Nomination requires a total of 5 nominators which can include the
nominee.

Nominator	UB e-mail address

Position Statement

The nominee must include a short paragraph (<500 words) describing why they would be suitable for the position including their positions on important University issues.

SAMPLE

ELECTION BALLOT

School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
University Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate elections use Cumulative Voting rules. In this procedure you can use your votes to support one candidate or multiple candidates. That is, you can give all your votes to one candidate, or spread them around evenly, or split them up however you want among the candidate (whole numbers only). However, in order to avoid time consuming second elections it is recommended that each candidate cast at least one vote for themselves. Therefore please use your FOURTEEN (14) Votes appropriately by placing a number from 1-14 in front of your chosen candidate(s). Please ensure that the numbers add up to 14 or less or the ballot will be invalidated:

_____ Daniel Amsterdam, Department of Microbiology and Immunology

_____ Jeffrey Anker, Department of Psychiatry

_____ Michael Chaskes, Department of Medicine

_____ George Chen, Department of Medicine

_____ Peter Elkin, Department of Biomedical Informatics

_____ John Gibbs, Department of Surgery

_____ Richard Gronostajski, Department of Biochemistry

_____ Hoon Jung, Department of Ophthalmology

_____ Dennis Nadler, Department of Pediatrics

_____ Chukwumere Nwogu, Department of Surgery

_____ Rajeev Sharma, Department of Surgery

_____ George Simpson, Department of Otolaryngology

_____ Satpal Singh, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

_____ Susan Udin, Department of Physiology and Biophysics

_____ Taechin Yu, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology