Committee on Nominations & Elections
Final Report for Academic Year 2012-13

The Committee on Nominations and Elections for 2012-13 was composed of the following members:

- Calvin Blackwell (Chair, Economics & Finance)
- Frederick Heldrich (Chemistry)
- Diane Johnson (Art History)
- Denis Keyes (Teacher Education)
- Celeste Lacroix (Communication)
- Nancy Nenno (German & Slavic Studies)
- Silvia Rodriguez-Sabater (Hispanic Studies)

Highlights:

**Fall 2012**

- N&E filled vacancies on a number of College-wide committees and one Faculty Senate seat.

**Spring 2013**

- N&E solicited nominations for Speaker of the Faculty, Faculty Secretary and At-Large Senators, and ran corresponding elections.
  - A second call for At-Large Senators representing Humanities & Social Sciences had to be made because there were fewer nominees than seats.
  - One At-Large Senate seat election had to be re-run because the initial winner declined to serve.
- N&E solicited volunteers for Senate and College committees and generated a slate of nominees for all standing committees.
  - Approximately 220 faculty members volunteered for at least one committee assignment.
  - After the initial slate of nominees was generated, N&E solicited self-nominations to create a final list of nominations for all committees.
- N&E ran elections for Senate and College committees.
- N&E ran elections for five By-Laws changes approved by the Faculty Senate.

Issues:

**Eligibility**

Should adjunct faculty be allowed to serve on Senate and College-wide committees? Past practice has been to disallow adjuncts to serve; however, the By-Laws do not explicitly state that adjuncts may not serve. This issue should be clarified.

Should faculty undergoing promotion or post-tenure review be allowed to serve on the Tenure & Promotion and Post-Tenure Review committees? Past practice (and the strong recommendation of the Provost’s Office) has been to disallow anyone undergoing a review to serve on these two committees; however, the By-Laws do not explicitly state that such a practice should be followed. It seems the By-Laws should reflect this practice.
Calendar

Current practice is to run elections for Speaker, Secretary and At-Large Senators at same time. This prevents faculty members from running for both Secretary and Senator. We suggest splitting this election into two, with the first election being for Speaker and Secretary, and the second election being just for At-Large Senators. Suggested timeline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>N&amp;E calls for nominees for Speaker and Secretary</td>
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<td>January 15</td>
<td>N&amp;E holds election for Speaker and Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>N&amp;E calls for nominees to be At-Large Senators</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>N&amp;E holds elections for At-Large Senators</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>N&amp;E makes call for volunteers for standing committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Deadline for volunteering for standing committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>N&amp;E completes initial slate for standing committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>April Senate</td>
<td>N&amp;E presents slate of candidates for standing committees and holds elections for all standing committees (Senate and College-wide)</td>
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Committee Elections

The N&E committee has no clearly defined rules for selecting the winner of elections to committees. For example, how does the committee select, on the basis of the votes cast, which of 9 nominees should serve on a committee of 7? Robert’s Rules of Order suggests that in the initial election, all nominees receiving a majority of the vote are placed on the committee, and if the number of nominees who receive a majority is less than the number of committee members, then there will be a run-off between all of the candidates who did not receive a majority. We propose that this practice not be used, and that instead the winners simply be the n-candidates that receive the most votes (where n is the number of committee members needed to be elected.)

The current process for electing College-wide committees is awkward and inconsistent. We propose that the method currently used to elect Senate committees be used to elect all committees. That process is as follows. The N&E committee solicits volunteers for Senate committees, and from those volunteers generates a slate of candidates for the Senate committees. This slate is put on the Faculty Senate agenda one-week prior to the April meeting of the Senate. At the Senate meeting, faculty may make additional nominations. After those nominations are made, the Faculty Senate votes on the slates, and the results of those elections determine the final makeup of the committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Tuesday, April 30, 2013