

Membership & Elections Committee
Academic Year 2014/2015 Annual Report

Regular Duties

1. During the fall and spring semesters, the Committee updated the Faculty database before elections were called. Maintaining a perfect faculty list is challenging because the list is very dynamic, in constant change due to retirement, sabbatical leaves, resignations, and new hires. Although challenging, the Committee worked together to ensure the database was as accurate as possible.
2. The Committee updated the Senate & Consortium Committee webpages to accurately reflect membership changes and current faculty representation.
3. M&E executed its regular charge of running elections for the Senate, Senate Committees, and faculty positions for the Forum, and other committees. Self-Nominations were run during fall and spring semesters to replace faculty on sabbatical. Special elections were also completed to fill vacancies due to resignation and retirements for School and At-Large seats. Spring School and At-Large elections were executed to fill positions with an end service term of Spring 2015.

Bylaw Amendment

- The committee executed three bylaw amendments. Amended Governance Consortium Committee bylaws were sent to the faculty for vote and were approved through a majority vote (Yes: 47; No: 4) on April 9, 2015. International Education Committee bylaw revisions were sent to the faculty for vote and were approved through a majority vote (Yes: 115; No: 14) on May 5, 2015. Revisions to allow continuing education faculty to sit on Committees in At-Large seats were sent to faculty for vote and were approved through majority vote (Yes: 98; No: 23) on May 5, 2015.

Senate Charges

The Committee was formally charged with the following:

1. To examine the currently posted bylaws for accuracy regarding previously proposed bylaw amendments that were passed and ensure these changes were reflected in such posted bylaws.
 - The Committee went into a lengthy discussion regarding the time frame to be used when examining the accuracy of the current bylaws. The Committee agreed that 6 full academic years from the present would be appropriate. The time frame reviewed began with 2008-2009 and ended with 2013-2014. Faculty Senate meeting minutes for each month were reviewed and any bylaw changes proposed and passed in these minutes, prompted the review of the corresponding proposed bylaw documents attached to these minutes. Such documents were then analyzed against the current bylaws. Only a few passed amendments were not changed to be reflected in the current bylaws. These discrepancies were sent to Stephen Ford, the Webmaster, for correction. These changes were completed and the website has been updated accordingly.
2. To investigate how other institutions' Faculty Senate or similar bodies interact with and represent (or don't represent) those who teach non-credit bearing experiences (for example, in ELI or Continuing Education).
 - The Committee worked diligently researching what other institutions within and outside of the state of Maryland were doing and presented to the Senate a summary of our findings.

Additional Duties

1. The Committee has been for about three semester now working with David Raizen in the IT Department to develop a new faculty voting software program to replace the outdated and time- and labor-intensive system currently in place. The system was piloted in the Fall of 2014 and numerous bugs were detected. David has since been back to the drawing board to work on these bugs but has not had much progress. The latest report from him to the Committee was that it might be easier to work with updating the old system, rather than inventing a new one.