Academic Senate Year End Committee Report 2014-2015

Elections and Rules

Chair: Moya M Mazorow
Members: Eve Adler, Fran Chandler, Andrew Nestler

The primary goals of the Election and Rules Committee for 2014-2015 were:
- Address concerns raised during the Spring 2014 Election cycle
- Update By-Laws

This committee had trouble drawing volunteers to serve. Additionally, leadership underwent a change in late Fall. Election and Rules was unable to make progress on updating the By-Laws. They did however make considerable progress on improving the voting for Department Chairs (interim and permanent), Academic Senators and Curriculum Committee representatives.

Looking Back:
1. A comprehensive review old senate documents, voting tallies, Senate membership lists, faculty lists provided by HR, and faculty lists provided by MIS was conducted to create an accurate list of faculty and an accurate list of Senators and to identify issues related to automated faculty data lists. Lists of senators were redesigned to include position, election area, term expiration, and voting classification. These lists can be used to track attendance and voting for purposes of posting to meet Brown Act.

2. Worked with Academic Affairs and MIS to design, beta test and implement a new webbased method of voting using the newly developed mProfessor.

    During this process, several issues were raised and resolved.
    a. Voting is based on the department to which the faculty is <u>primarily</u> assigned; this appears to not update unless a chair of department notifies HR of an incorrect primary assignment. If no department assigned, then not eligible to vote in elections that require a department be input. Should be able to vote in general Senate elections (president….).
    b. Eligibility lists are pulled from data in ISIS. Lists were originally pooled from teaching assignment page. This meant that faculty with 100% nonteaching assignment did not get ballot. Resolution: Worked with MIS to change how it was determined a person was eligible for ballot.
    c. AR paid –status   It is unclear if this is accounted for in system.
    d. The system does not allow running concurrent elections from different type of faculty pools. This means that elections of senators from the full-time faculty must be run separate from those of the part-time faculty, but one can run election for Math department representative and Business department representative from full-time faculty concurrently. Resolution: Run election of full-time senators in a separate election than that of part-time senators.
    e. The system does not allow multiple selected departments to vote on one issue as is needed for Curriculum Elections. Resolution: Duplicate ballot for each department and run as one election. The results of the separate ballots were added.

f. Faculty lists were originally pooled from teaching assignment page. This meant that faculty with 100% nonteaching assignment did not get ballot. Resolution: Worked with MIS to change how it was determined a person was eligible for ballot.

The following issues were raised but not resolved.

a. Who and when should be notified of current Senators and current area Curriculum representatives including expiration of term? At the beginning of Spring term a notification could go out to all faculty from each department so that they could initialize internal discussions if desired.

b. How are the email lists going to be obtained to inform faculty of nomination periods? Faculty lists on the global list have proved to be inaccurate.

c. Adjunct Faculty have 11 representatives. Should ballot be pick up to 11? How will tie be handled? For example if results are ranked 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,10,10, 13. There is a three way tie for tenth. What would be the procedure for identifying the 11 representatives?

d. How should permanently vacant seats be handled? Two scenarios should be considered. 1) Senator informs the Executive Committee or Elections and Rules that they will not finish their term but will finish out the academic year. Suggested solution would to have this seat be run through current election process. Would this be for a new three year term or only to finish term as an interim? 2) Seat becomes vacant mid academic year.

e. Is a part-time faculty who has been hired for the upcoming year to a tenure-track position eligible to be nominated for an electoral area representative in the election voted on by Full-time faculty? Suggestion: This should be allowed in By-Laws.

The following additional issues were raised and will need to be addressed:

1. How are absences going to be handled? Senate President can declare vacant pursuant to Article IV of the Senate Bylaws. Currently bylaws call for an election to be run if President declares seat vacant, but is that a practical solution?

2. How should temporary vacant seats be handled? Scenarios: 1) A current senator has a leave of absence for a full-term such as for a sabbatical. 2) A current senator has a medical leave for part of a term. Can the department chair appoint someone to continue? Can the department handle their own election and inform Senate leadership? Can a part-time faculty member replace a full-time member on a temporary basis or vice versa? How is such a change documented in paper trail?

Moving Forward

- Develop a list of officers and their duties
- Discuss the Brown Act expectations of committees and chairs. Possible develop standing rules and orders.
- Revise By-Laws including but not limited to issues addressed above.
- Address concerns raised during 2014-2015 Election cycle.