

Expanded Faculty Affairs Committee recommendation with regard to University Senate proposal and timelines

The committee proposes that there be vote of the faculty to temporarily shift the Senate year to a calendar year – January to January. This calendar has been proposed for Senate before, and while there are some challenges, there are also some advantages – primarily with regard to the timing of elections.

In this particular case, an advantage would be that we could hold the referendum on the proposed University Senate this spring, but not actually have to try to do it fast enough to hold elections for Senate as well. The General Faculty Constitution states: (Article IX: Elections, Section 1) Elections ... shall be conducted so as to be completed before teaching schedules for the fall semester are determined.” This means that the referendum has to be held before the elections , and that puts us on a very short timeline. We could however, hold a vote of changing the calendar and time of elections before we needed to hold the elections. We would do the elections for other positions as established in the General Faculty Constitution and hold the referendum in probably March. If the referendum resulted in passage of the University Senate, we would hold elections early in the fall and establish the new Senate in January.

To accomplish this, it would be necessary to

1. Hold a vote of the General Faculty as soon as possible to suspend the election provisions of the current General Faculty constitution specifically with regard to the election of Senators for the purpose of shifting the election of new senators to the fall semester.
2. Check with Senators whose term of office would normally be up this spring to see if they would be willing to extend their term of office by one semester.
3. Identify vacancies that would exist due to inability to serve and hold a special election to fill these vacancies.