Recommendation of the UC to Revise P&P Supplement to Chapter 6: Faculty Standing Committees

Motion: the UWM University Committee moves the adoption of the following changes to UWM Policies & Procedures, Chap 6 Supplement, A3.9(b):

CURRENT WORDING

b) Vacancies in the University Committee membership are to be filled as soon thereafter as possible, by special election, through preparation of a special slate of nominees prepared by the Nominations Committee and permitting nominations from the university faculty followed by a mail ballot. The membership that results from the filling of this vacancy will follow the membership composition restrictions of the University Committee with respect to school/college and departmental affiliation as cited in A3.9 (1) (a).

(Document 2477, 05/17/05; UWM Administration, 08/16/05)
(Document 2560, 2/15/07; UWM Administration, 2/21/07)

PROPOSED WORDING (BOLD FONT IS NEW)

b) Vacancies in the University Committee membership are to be filled as soon thereafter as possible. If the vacancy cannot be filled within the regular annual committee elections process as specified in 6.24(1&6), then a special election will be held through preparation of a special slate of nominees by the Nominations Committee and permitting nominations from the university faculty followed by a mail ballot. If the special slate has more than two nominees for an available position, a final election will be conducted as specified in A3.9(1)(a). The membership that results from the filling of this vacancy will follow the membership composition restrictions of the University Committee with respect to school/college and departmental affiliation as cited in A3.9 (1) (a).

Rationale

In some cases, UC resignations are tendered by sitting members early in the spring semester (eg they know they will be on sabbatical or other leave the following year). When this occurs, it makes sense to fold the filling of the vacancy election into the regular annual elections. Current codification prevents this from happening, which forced a special UC election this past spring immediately following the general elections. In order to accomplish filling UC vacancies in a timely manner, the change on special UC elections, above, is offered.

Second, we had a situation this spring where the special election had more than two faculty running for one available UC position. One of those colleagues polled more than one-half of the total votes cast. In that case, that person should be declared the winner. However, should the same situation not yield one candidate with the majority of votes cast, then we believe a run-off should be conducted. The second edit, above, will accomplish that.

The University Committee asks the Senate to approve this motion as it will make filling UC positions more timely and efficient.

UWM University Committee 2008-09

Cindy Walker, Chair
Lee Ann Garrison     Tien-Chien Jen
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