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Revision of the Senate Bylaws III.8: Re: Senate Officers

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Approved by the Senate: 10/16/2003
Not Approved by the Senate:
Approved by the President: 11/10/2003
Not Approved by the President

Revision of the Senate Bylaws III.8: Re: Senate Officers

Submitted by Marc Cyr

9/29/2003

Motion:

That Bylaws III.8 be revised to the following: The Senate Secretary and the Senate Librarian shall be sitting senators or senators elect elected by the Senate at its final meeting of the spring semester. The Chair of the Senate Executive Committee shall be a sitting senator elected by the Senate at the final meeting of the fall semester preceding the beginning of his or her term. These three Senate officers shall serve one year terms beginning with the first day of the following academic year and may succeed themselves for no more than one additional term (a total of two consecutive years). Persons elected to these positions must have had at least one year of service on the Faculty Senate prior to the start of the term to which they have been elected.

Rationale:

Because the SEC Chair votes to break ties, he/she should be an elected senator with the senatorial right to vote. Much SEC work is done prior to the date of the first full Senate meeting, and the language need to take that reality into account. Because of the Fall election of the SEC Chair, he/she needs to be a current senator when elected and hold that status during the year in office, as with the Secretary and Librarian. However, given the Spring election of the Secretary and Librarian, they could be people who have had a previous stint on the Senate, hence the requisite year's experience, who are returning for another term, and the language leaves that option open.

Response:

Minutes: 10/16/2003: Revision of Bylaws III.8: SEC Chair Marc Cyr (CLASS) Cyr (Moderator) moved to strike the current Section III.8 of the Senate Bylaws and replace it with: "The Senate Secretary and the Senate Librarian shall be sitting senators or senator s-elect elected by the Senate at its final meeting of the spring semester. The chair of the Senate Executive Committee shall be a sitting senator elected by the senate at the final meeting of the fall semester preceding the beginning of his or her term. These three Senate officers shall serve one- year terms beginning with the first day of the following academic year and may succeed themselves for no more than one additional term (a total of two consecutive years). Persons elected to these positions must have had at least one year of service on the Faculty Senate prior to the start of the term to which they have been elected." The rationale is as follows: • The SEC chair votes to break ties, thus he/she should be an elected senator with the senatorial right to vote. The prior language would allow somebody who was not a senator to be the chair. • A significant amount of work is done prior to the first full Senate meeting and this allows them to take office sooner. • For Secretary and Librarian, who are elected in the Spring, if Senate elections are completed by that point in time, these positions could be filled by individuals who have previous Senate experience and are returning for another term. The motion was seconded. Krug (CLASS) noted that Cyr (Moderator) appeared to be intending that the individual who will serve as SEC chair have at least one more year remaining when they are elected, but that the wording simply required that they be a sitting Senator at the time of election (i.e., they could be in their 3rd year, which would mean they were rotating off next term.) She offered revised wording "The Chair must have at least one year remaining in his or her term on the Senate at the time of election." There was additional discussion regarding the wording, with Edwards (COST) proposing "The Chair of the SEC shall be a sitting senator and elected by the senate at the final meeting....". Edwards's (COST) friendly amendment was seconded and the amended motion was passed.