

2007-2008 Group on Faculty Affairs
AAMC Listserve Queries & Responses

Query: Election questions

Question from Steve Block, Wake Forest University (stblock@wfubmc.edu):

Faculty affairs colleagues:

It's an election year and so I have some questions about elections at your school. Specifically, I am interested in the way in which standing committees are made up.

1. Do you have committees that are populated by a vote of the faculty? If so, please name these committees. (I realize that names will vary among schools, but we can get a sense of what they do from the names they have at your institution).
2. How do you manage the elections: Are they by department so that there is a departmental rep on each of these committees, or is it a school-wide election? Is there any other approach to election? How are the slates of candidates chosen/nominated?
3. In particular, are the members of the Student Admissions Committee, the Committee on Undergraduate Medical Education and the Student Promotions and Progress Committees (or their equivalents) elected to their positions?

Responses:

Kevin Grigsby, Penn State (kgrigsby@psu.edu):

We have a few standing committees within our Faculty Organization (our campus based faculty governance group). These committees are comprised of some elected faculty members, some members appointed by the Dean, and some appointed by the Faculty Organization Council. The CUMED (Committee on Undergraduate Medical Education) and the CEC (Curriculum Evaluation Committee) are appointed by the Faculty Organization Council comprised of the Faculty Organization Officers who are elected as well. Fifty percent of the College Promotion and Tenure Committee membership is elected and the other 50% are appointed by the Dean. All of the elections make use of written, email ballots and are school-wide. Nominations are solicited by the President of the Faculty Organization through the Nominations Committee. My office provides the support for the election process.

Stephen Bogdewic, Indiana University (bogdewic@iupui.edu):

Our standing committees are:

- Academic Standards Committee
- Admissions Committee
- Biomedical Research Committee
- Community Relations Committee
- Education and Curriculum Council
- Faculty Promotions and Tenure Committee
- Lecturer and Clinical Rank Faculty Appointment Contract and Promotions Committee
- Student Promotions Committee
- Awards Committee
- Faculty Development Coordinating Committee

Each committee has a few elected positions every year from a school-wide ballot (electronic) of all eligible faculty. These individuals serve for two years. I can appoint others to the committees.

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Karen Novielli, Jefferson University (Karen.novielli@jefferson.edu):

Our standing committees are:

Student Admission
Student Promotions
Student Affairs
Curriculum
Faculty Appointments and Promotions
Faculty Affairs
CME
Bylaws and Rules
Nominating Committee
Research
Affiliations
Academic Protocol
Alumni and Public Affairs
Departmental Review
Judicial Board
Professionalism

We have a Committee on Committees that is composed of the Dean, three Chairs elected from their peers and two faculty members (one basic science, one clinical) elected from their peers. The Committee on Committees is responsible for appointing members to the Committees. We invite faculty to declare their interest in serving on committees and we solicit input from Department Chairs and Committee Chairs. This information is provided to the Committee on Committees.

Sandra Watson, Morehouse School of Medicine (swatson@msm.edu):

We have a Committee on Committees that is made up of the Dean and four members of our Academic Policy Council (APC), one of whom is a faculty member elected to serve on the APC by the Faculty Assembly. The Committee on Committees is responsible for appointing members to the standing committees. We ask department chairs to solicit interest from their faculty members and ask faculty members to indicate their interest in priority order. We also ask committee chairs for recommendations. This information is provided to the Committee on Committees.