

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

Agenda Item Title: UNLV Bylaw Change – Selection of Department Chairs

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Current policy is vague with regards to selection of Department Chairpersons and School Directors.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

1. Departmental or school faculty shall nominate the chairperson/director by vote.
2. If faculty are unable to nominate a chairperson, the appropriate dean shall nominate the chairperson after giving faculty of the department or school and related departments appropriate notice.
3. If faculty are unable to nominate a candidate for chairperson that is acceptable to either the dean or the provost, the department shall be provided the opportunity to either nominate another candidate, or make its case directly to the president.
4. If the department is unable to nominate a candidate acceptable to the president, the dean may put forward a nomination after giving faculty of the department or school and related departments appropriate notice.
5. The dean may nominate an interim chair from outside the department for a period of one academic year.
6. No search for an external chair may be conducted without prior notice to the department or school faculty.
7. The initial term of office of a chairperson may be 3 or 5 years, with the possibility of renewal for terms of three (3) years.
8. A director of a school, where equivalent to a dean, is exempt from this section.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Clarification of the current policy will provide a greater understanding of the process, and allow for consistent implementation.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Clarification of policy will result in less disagreement regarding correct application.
- A clear policy will lead to understanding of procedures prior to their implementation.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Could lengthen the time required to complete the selection process if the candidate nominated by the faculty is unacceptable to the dean or the provost.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None proposed.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # 2 Chapter # 1 Section # 1.6
 Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 5 Chapter # 6 Chapter # II Section # 10.8
 Other: _____
 Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X _____
Explain: _____

PROPOSED REVISIONS: Title 5, Chapter 6, Section 10.8

Additions in **boldface italics**; deletions [in brackets]

Section 10.8 Selection of Department Chairs and School Directors. [Selection of department chairs and school directors shall normally be guided by the principle that the departmental or school faculty shall nominate the chair according to departmental or school bylaws. In the event the departmental or school faculty is unable to nominate a chair, the appropriate dean shall nominate the chair after consulting with the faculty of the department or school and related departments. Candidates for chair must be acceptable to the dean and the Executive Vice President and Provost, and are appointed by the president in accordance with Chapter 1, Section 1.6 of the NSHE Code. (B/R10/98)] ***Except as provided in Section 10.8.5, the department chairperson or school director is the person, regardless of contractual title, who prepares the annual evaluations of academic faculty in a department. Chairs and directors are appointed by the president in accordance with Chapter 1, Section 1.6 of the NSHE Code.***

(a) The departmental or school faculty shall nominate the chairperson/director, including external candidate, by vote according to departmental or school bylaws.

(b) In the event the departmental or school faculty is unable to nominate a chairperson, the appropriate dean shall nominate the chairperson after giving faculty of the department or school and related departments no less than two working days prior notice of that nomination.

(c) In the event that the candidate for chairperson nominated by the faculty is unacceptable to either the dean or the provost, the department or school shall be provided the opportunity to either nominate another candidate, or make its case directly to the president. If the department or school is unable to nominate a chairperson acceptable to the president, the appropriate dean shall nominate the chairperson after giving faculty of the department or school and related departments no less than two working days prior notice of that nomination.

(d) The dean may nominate an interim chair from outside the department or school for a period of one academic year.

(e) No search for an external chair shall be conducted without prior notice to the department or school faculty of no less than two working days.

Section 10.8.1 Term of Office. The ***initial*** term of office of a chairperson shall be three (3) ***or five (5)*** years, with the possibility of renewal ***for terms of three (3) years.***

Section 10.8.2 Qualifications. The department chairperson or school director shall be a tenured member of the faculty, with a rank of IV or III. Exceptions may be made only by the express written consent of the dean and the provost.

Section 10.8.3 Method of Appointment. The name of the nominee for the department chair or school director shall be forwarded by the dean, through channels, for appointment by the president.

Section 10.8.4 Procedures for Removal from Office. Department chairpersons or school directors may be removed from office during their terms by the president. The provost, deans, or departmental or school faculty, in accordance with unit bylaws, may seek removal of a chair.

Section 10.8.5 Directors Equivalent to Deans. *A director of a school, where equivalent to a Dean, is exempt from this section, and subject to the sections of the Bylaws related to College Deans.*