

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Guidelines for Elections of Senators and Faculty Representatives on Committees

In accordance with fundamental principles of shared governance, the faculty of the university must be able to conduct its business in the senate, and its elections of senators, and its elections of faculty representatives on university committees, without interference from personnel who hold administrative appointments. Administrators, staff, and students already have specific representation on all the governing bodies and councils of the university.

For those governing bodies requiring faculty representatives who are appointed by the senate, the following set of guidelines for the election of faculty representatives to the governing bodies of the university has been adopted by the Faculty Senate of NSU.

Guidelines for Election of Senators

1. Persons holding administrative appointments must not supervise, nor interfere with, nor attempt to influence the election of faculty representatives to the Faculty Senate.
2. When the non-administrative faculty of a unit/department engages in electing a representative for the senate, the following stipulations should be met in order to preserve the collegiality of the election process:
 - A nominee must be eligible for the position sought. Ineligible candidates cannot be accepted. For example, an Officer of the Senate cannot be nominated for a senatorial seat without first resigning his/her appointment as an Officer. Similarly, a nominee who would have to leave meetings before a typical meeting time of 60 minutes is ineligible, as such early departures could potentially affect the quorum count.
 - Regardless of the type of vote decided on by the non-administrative faculty, “No” votes, “Against” votes, or negative votes of any kind are irregular and should be counted as abstentions. If the faculty of a given unit is concerned about a particular nominee, the accepted procedure is to run against them, and not to solicit negative votes.
 - In light of the previous guidelines, if a unit/department is entitled to two representatives (as an example), and if there are two nominees, there is no need for an election of nominees within that unit.
 - In the event of a tied vote, the non-administrative faculty should resolve the issue amicably, and in a collegial manner. Other factors such as allowing newer faculty to serve, as well as the mission statement of the university and the promotion of diversity on the campus should be considered. If the faculty still cannot reach a decision, more than one nominee can be submitted to the Committee on Committees for presentation to the Faculty Senate.
3. Nominees from non-administrative faculty in units/departments are submitted to the Committee on Committees for presentation to the Senate. The Committee on Committees is entitled to make its own recommendations that may better reflect the mission statement of the university and the promotion of diversity throughout the governing bodies of the institution.
4. The Faculty Senate formally elects governing body representatives from the nominees supplied by non-administrative faculty to the Committee on Committees, nominees submitted from the floor, and nominees and self-nominees submitted from other verifiable forms of communication.

5. Senators who are elected by the non-administrative faculty of their units/departments after the first senate meeting of the academic year must make a formal communication of the matter to the Officers of the Senate.
6. In elections of faculty representatives from the faculty at large, a faculty member may nominate himself/herself. Regardless, the nominees must be elected by the Faculty Senate.
7. The Committee on Committees communicates Senate appointments to the President of the University or the VPASA. This communication is permitted to take place through the Faculty Senate web page.

Guidelines for Election of Faculty Representatives on Committees

1. Persons holding administrative appointments must not supervise, nor interfere with, nor attempt to influence the election of faculty representatives to the governing bodies of the university. These bodies include the committees of the institution, and any such councils that, as described in the Faculty Handbook, have faculty members who are elected by the faculty and/or appointed by the senate.
2. The process for election of faculty representatives to the university governing bodies is the responsibility of the Faculty Senate, except for those committees for which all appointments are made by the Provost and/or President of NSU, as detailed in Chapter 2 of the Handbook. While it is true that, in general, the Committee on Committees brings nominations for faculty representatives to the senate for approval, this is not necessarily the case. (See below.)
3. When the non-administrative faculty of a unit/department engages in electing a representative for a committee, the following stipulations should be met in order to preserve the collegiality of the election process:
 - A nominee must be eligible for the position sought. Ineligible candidates cannot be accepted. For example, a nominee who would have to leave meetings before a typical meeting time of 60 minutes is ineligible, as such early departures could potentially affect the quorum count.
 - Regardless of the type of vote decided on by the non-administrative faculty, “No” votes, “Against” votes, or negative votes of any kind are irregular and should be counted as abstentions. If the faculty of a given unit is concerned about a particular nominee, the accepted procedure is to run against them, and not to solicit negative votes.
 - In light of the previous guidelines, if a unit/department is entitled to one representative (as an example), and if there is only one nominee, there is no need for an election within that unit.
 - In the event of a tied vote, the non-administrative faculty should resolve the issue amicably, and in a collegial manner. Other factors such as allowing newer faculty to serve, as well as the mission statement of the university and the promotion of diversity on the campus should be considered. If the faculty still cannot reach a decision, more than one nominee can be submitted to the Committee on Committees for presentation to the Faculty Senate.
4. Nominees from non-administrative faculty in units/departments are submitted to the Committee on Committees for presentation to the Senate. The Committee on Committees is entitled to make its own recommendations that may better reflect the mission statement of the university and the promotion of diversity throughout the governing bodies of the institution.

5. The Faculty Senate formally elects governing body representatives from the nominees supplied by non-administrative faculty to the Committee on Committees, nominees submitted from the floor, and nominees and self-nominees submitted from other verifiable forms of communication.
6. In accordance with previously mentioned guidelines, a given committee is entitled to nominate a new or replacement member for approval by the senate. Also, in elections of faculty representatives from the faculty at large, a faculty member may nominate himself/herself. Regardless, the nominees must be elected by the Faculty Senate.
7. The Committee on Committees communicates Senate appointments to the President of the University or the VPASA. This communication is permitted to take place through the Faculty Senate web page.