

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION

Submit this form to the Faculty Senate President

SUBJECT: Standing Rule for Associate Chairs on Standing Committees

SENATOR PROPOSING MOTION: Angela Freeman

SENATOR SECONDING MOTION:

MOTION (this section alone will be recorded in the minutes):

The Faculty Senate shall establish the following Faculty Senate Standing Rule:

The Faculty Senate Standing Committees that govern policy and curricular changes [the Academic Policies Committee (APC), the University Curriculum Committee (UCC), and the General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC)] may choose to elect an Associate Chair, who shall be given primary responsibility for some duties. Within two weeks of the election of an Associate Chair, the designated senator of the committee will forward to the Faculty Senate President and the Faculty Senate Webmaster, the duties the committee has planned for the Associate Chair and the name of the elected Associate Chair. The Faculty Senate Webmaster will post this information on the Faculty Senate webpages.

JUSTIFICATION:

The workloads of the mentioned committees, the APC, the UCC, and the GEOC can frequently become consistently large and continually pressing. The workloads can also commonly involve varied responsibilities that can be handled somewhat separately.

In previous years, some of these committees have elected Co-Chairs, and found that structure helpful. However, Robert's Rules does not permit standing committees of a governing body to elect any position other than a chair, unless the governing body establishes that ability essentially in standing rules or bylaws. The use of co-chairs may lead to some ambiguity about who is the actual Chair of a committee. The election of an Associate Chair, on the other hand, would permit shared leadership, allowing for the Chair to share some duties that may require a degree of authority (such as conducting hearings) that ordinary members of the committee might not be seen to hold, while keeping it clear who the actual Chair of the committee is.

To avoid confusion for the committee, the Chair, and the Associate Chair, the duties that the committee selects for the Associate Chair should be written and available to the committee members. Certainly the essential duties of the Associate Chair should be known before candidates accept a nomination. In addition, it could be useful for faculty senators or other faculty to know these duties (they could possibly avoid contacting the Chair who then contacts the Associate Chair for duties that are in the purview of the Associate Chair). Hence, when committees use this structure, they should document the duties and the Faculty Senate (FS) Webmaster should post the Chair, the Associate Chair, and the Associate Chair duties on the committee's dropdown on the FS web pages.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

Negative: There will be additional work for the committees and the FS Webmaster up front to establish the Associate Chair's duties. If the committee agrees later to alter the Associate Chair's duties, they will need to notify the FS Webmaster.

Positive: It would allow these committees to more effectively manage heavy or varied workloads when that is necessary.

Is this a recommendation to the Provost? Yes _____ No X _____
Is this a recommendation to someone else? No _____ Yes, to _Faculty Senate_____

VOTE: Number of Senators Present: Motion Passes or Fails: