

Resolution 2022-6: Summary and Frequently Asked Questions

Summary

Resolution 2022-6 amends several provisions of *The Faculty Code of University Government* pertaining to the chair of the faculty and the secretary of the faculty and establishes a timeline for implementing the amendments.

Section 1 of the resolution:

- Reduces the term of the chair of the faculty from 3 years to 2 years, beginning in 2026.
- Creates the roles of chair-elect and immediate past-chair of the faculty.
- Provides that a person elected chair of the faculty shall serve a 1-year term as chair-elect, followed by a 2-year term as chair, followed by a 1-year term as past-chair.
- Makes the chair-elect a non-voting ex officio member of the Faculty Executive Committee.
- Makes the immediate past-chair a non-voting ex officio member of the Advisory Committee.
- Provides that elections for chair of the faculty will be held every other year.
- Provides a timeline for implementing these changes.

Section 2 of the resolution:

- Reduces the term of the secretary of the faculty from 5 years to 4 years, beginning in 2026.
- Provides that a person may not serve as secretary for more than two consecutive terms.
- Makes a technical correction to acknowledge that permanent records of minutes are now maintained electronically rather than in books.
- Provides a timeline for implementing these changes.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does this amendment actually extend the term of the chair to 4 years, since the person will serve one year as chair-elect, two as chair, and one as past-chair?

No, the amendment reduces the term of chair of the faculty to two years. The one year as chair-elect and as an ex officio non-voting member of the Faculty Executive Committee is intended to be a year for learning the role of chair and making needed arrangements to take on the time commitment required of the chair. The formal role of the immediate past-chair is minimal (service on the Advisory Committee). It has been customary for past chairs to serve informally as an advisor to the new chair.

2. What purpose do the amendments pertaining to the chair of the faculty serve?

The Committee on University Government believes that these amendments are a way to recruit a wider range of faculty members to stand for election as chair. The one year as chair-elect provides time for a faculty member to make arrangements to temporarily set aside other responsibilities during the time the person will serve as chair. Then the active service as chair is for only two years, rather than the current three.

3. Will these changes apply to the election for chair of the faculty that will occur in spring 2023?

No, the changes will not be in effect for this spring's election, so the person elected chair in spring 2023 will serve a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2023. The next election for chair of the faculty will occur in academic year 2024-25, and the person elected will serve one year as chair-elect, then two years as chair, then one year as immediate past-chair. Subsequent elections will be every other year and the person elected will progress from chair-elect (1 year) to chair (2 years) to past-chair (1 year).

4. Did the Committee look at other University's governance structures? If so, how does this model (chair-elect, chair, past-chair) compare to others?

Yes, the Committee looked at the models used by 37 other large universities. Thirty-two (87%) had a model in which a person served either as chair-elect or vice-chair for a year before serving a one- or two-year term as chair. This model is also similar to the structure for officers found in many professional organizations.

5. Is there compensation and release from duties for the person who serves as chair?

Yes, historically the chair has received a stipend and an agreement for release from duties, either in the form of course release or release of a percentage FTE, depending on the nature of the individual's faculty position. In the October 2022 meeting of the Faculty Council, the provost stated that he plans to continue this practice.

6. Will there be compensation and release from duties during the chair-elect and immediate past-chair periods of service?

Compensation and release from duties is not expected for these positions, as the service is similar to the uncompensated service of other faculty members who participate in faculty governance.

7. With these changes, will the chair-elect and past-chair serve on any committees and, if so, will they get a vote?

The chair-elect will serve as an ex officio non-voting member of the Faculty Executive Committee. The past-chair will serve as an ex officio non-voting member of the Advisory Committee.

8. What changes will the amendments make to the position of secretary of the faculty?

The amendments will prohibit a person from serving as secretary for more than two terms consecutively. Beginning in 2026, the secretary's term will be reduced from five years to four years.