Recommendations for changes to Guide to Faculty Governance concerning selection of department chairs
Approved by University Faculty Council on May 3, 2006

Current language in Guide to Faculty Governance, Paragraph I.E.2.c.

Department chairs in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Robins School of Business ordinarily are nominated by the regular full-time department faculty in consultation with the Dean. After consulting with the department, the Dean's and the department's recommendations are forwarded to and the appointment is made by the President for a term of a specified number of years. In practice the President delegates this responsibility to the Provost. Chairs are eligible for reappointment for additional terms. They are responsible to the Dean for the normal operations of the department, including scheduling of classes, assignment of instructors, preparation of annual budgets, and recommendation of employment, promotion, tenure and salary increases of faculty members in their departments. Chairs represent their departments in the Academic Council and the University Senate and are expected to keep their departments informed of actions of both of these bodies.

Recommended changes (additions underlined, deletions in strike-through font)

Department chairs in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Robins School of Business ordinarily are nominated by the regular full-time department faculty acting as a collective and deliberative body and voting ordinarily by secret ballot. The person nominated will have the approval of at least half of the department’s members. The department’s nomination will be in the form of a letter to the Dean of their school that explains the department’s choice of a chair. Although individual members of the department should be informed that they have the right to send a confidential letter of their own to the Dean, such letters should not be required or even solicited by the Dean. If the Dean does not support the department’s nomination, the Dean meets with the department to explain his or her reasons for not supporting the nomination. The department will then reevaluate their nomination and consider the Dean’s objections. Subsequently, the department will communicate their choice of candidate for chair to the Dean. The Dean and the department will remain in consultation until a mutually agreeable candidate has been selected and has agreed to serve as chair. A mutually agreeable candidate is a person who has the support of both the Dean and at least 50% of the regular full-time department faculty. The candidate’s name is in consultation with the Dean. After consulting with the department, the Dean's and the department's recommendations are forwarded to and the appointment is made by the President for a term of a specified number of years. In practice the President delegates this responsibility to the Provost. Chairs are eligible for reappointment for additional terms. Chairs are responsible to the Dean for the normal operations of the department, including scheduling of classes, assignment of instructors, preparation of annual budgets, and recommendation of employment, promotion, tenure and salary increases of faculty members in their departments. Chairs represent their departments to the administration as well as in the Academic Council and the University Senate and are expected to keep their departments informed of actions of both of these bodies.
Thus, the recommended language reads

Department chairs in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Robins School of Business ordinarily are nominated by the regular full-time department faculty acting as a collective and deliberative body and voting ordinarily by secret ballot. The person nominated will have the approval of at least half of the department’s members. The department’s nomination will be in the form of a letter to the Dean of their school that explains the department’s choice of a chair. Although individual members of the department should be informed that they have the right to send a confidential letter of their own to the Dean, such letters should not be required or even solicited by the Dean. If the Dean does not support the department’s nomination, the Dean meets with the department to explain his or her reasons for not supporting the nomination. The department will then reevaluate their nomination and consider the Dean’s objections. Subsequently, the department will communicate their choice of candidate for chair to the Dean. The Dean and the department will remain in consultation until a mutually agreeable candidate has been selected and has agreed to serve as chair. A mutually agreeable candidate is a person who has the support of both the Dean and at least 50% of the regular full-time department faculty. The candidate’s name is forwarded to and the appointment is made by the President for a term of a specified number of years. In practice the President delegates this responsibility to the Provost. Chairs are eligible for reappointment for additional terms. Chairs are responsible to the Dean for the normal operations of the department, including scheduling of classes, assignment of instructors, preparation of annual budgets, and recommendation of employment, promotion, tenure and salary increases of faculty members in their departments. Chairs represent their departments to the administration as well as in the Academic Council and the University Senate and are expected to keep their departments informed of actions of both of these bodies.