Establishing the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC) for the Upcoming Presidential Search

In advance of the upcoming presidential search, the Office of the Faculty Senate is coordinating the election and appointment of the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC) that will work with the Board-appointed Presidential Search Committee and its designated search firm. The FCC plays an important role in the presidential search process. The FCC selects some of its members for recommendation to the Board of Trustees as faculty members for the Presidential Search Committee. It provides a representative faculty voice during the drafting of the position profile, and it advises Presidential Search Committee members as they conduct their work.

Although the timing of the upcoming presidential search has not yet been announced, it is imperative that the FCC be in place before the Presidential Search Committee begins its work. While the FSEC will coordinate the formation of a slate of FCC nominees, the actual election of the FCC will take place in the fall at a special meeting of the Faculty Assembly.

Ahead of the last presidential search that took place in 2016-2017, the Faculty Assembly elected the membership of the FCC in a two-part process:

1) pursuant to Assembly Resolution 86/1, which provides for the election of a single faculty member from each school with Senate representation; and

2) pursuant to Assembly Resolution 17/2, which provided a mechanism for expanding the FCC during that presidential search by Senate election of seven additional FCC members in order to provide broader faculty representation (including but not limited to underrepresented minorities, gender, and discipline, as well as rank, track, and grade of academic personnel). The FSEC expects to present the same mechanism for expanding the FCC to the Assembly for this presidential search.

This apparently cumbersome procedure is necessary because, under AR 86/1, the Faculty Assembly specified a rigid selection process for recommending faculty members for the Presidential Search Committee that does not directly ensure a diverse faculty voice. Unfortunately, the expected timeline for the current search does not allow time to change the process in a way that would apply to the current search. The FSEC has therefore decided to use similar amendments as for the last search to ensure diverse and equitable faculty representation. The FSEC and Senate expect to propose a new procedure for future presidential searches for approval by the Faculty Assembly once this presidential search is completed.
The FSEC has requested that each school with Senate representation (following AR 86/1), at its earliest convenience, call an election as per point 1) above. Each school's Senate representatives will prepare a school slate of two or more nominees for presentation at a meeting of the school faculty. Faculty may send school slate nominations (including self-nominations) to their school Faculty Senate Executive Committee representative. Nominations are also invited from the floor at the time of the school's faculty meeting. The elected faculty member will then be placed on the FCC slate forwarded by the Faculty Senate to the Assembly.

In addition, the FSEC has also asked that, at this meeting of the school faculty, a pool of 3-5 faculty members from each school be designated for possible service on the extended FCC as per point 2) above. (A request for a pool group has also been sent to the College of Professional Studies, which does not have Senate representation and is therefore not included in the election process.) This pool should include faculty members representing the diversity measures noted and any other diversity measures relevant to the school. The FSEC will assess the school election results and—pursuant to today's resolution 22/2—select additional representation for the Assembly’s extended-FCC slate from the pools submitted by the schools. These pools will be used to ensure a larger, balanced, and diverse extended-FCC slate is made available to the Faculty Assembly for its consideration. To be clear, the entire FCC slate—comprising both the elected school representatives and those selected by the FSEC from the pools—will be considered full members of the FCC and therefore eligible for the FCC to suggest for Presidential Search Committee membership.

The FSEC Chair intends to request that the President call a special Faculty Assembly for mid-September for the purpose of approving the FCC. An announcement on this will be forthcoming.

**Shared Governance**

Later this month, the FSEC will hold a meeting, inviting the Senate standing committee chairs, to work on drafting operationalized shared governance processes as the starting point for a discussion this fall with the Senate and then with the Board of Trustees and the administration. There is a strong desire among all parties to come to an agreement on what shared governance looks like at GW—what it entails and how it is enacted—so that future endeavors can proceed under clear guidance in this area. Senate members are invited to contact their FSEC representative with their ideas.

**Standing Senate Committee Charges**

Charges for the Senate standing committees for the 2021-2022 session will be sent over the next month. Please send any suggestions for specific committee charges to Liz and Jenna by August 23.

**Senate Meetings in 2021-2022**

Liz and Jenna have been working hard on a return to campus operations for Senate meetings. The State Room opened for reservations in late July, and the current expectation is that Senate meetings will again take place in the State Room, beginning with the September 10 meeting. In-person attendance will be limited to elected Senate members, Senate administrative members, Senate staff,
and meeting presenters and their necessary support staff. Attendees not actively participating in the meeting will be able to attend via WebEx, where they will be able to hear speakers and view presentations.

There are a number of logistical and pandemic-related challenges around this plan, and the Senate office requests your flexibility as they work through these issues. University Events is operating with lower staffing levels at the moment, and that office is still determining how events will be supported by IT. It may be necessary to hold the September meeting via WebEx if these issues have not been worked out by the beginning of September; please read meeting announcements closely for information about how they will be convened.

The Senate office and leadership are eager to return to the State Room for Senate meetings. Holding these complex meetings via WebEx has proved workable but extremely challenging for the Senate staff. We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to return to our State Room home next month and thank you for your flexibility and support throughout the process.

**Personnel Actions**

There are no active grievances at the university.

**Calendar**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee is August 27, 2021. All agenda items to be considered by the FSEC for the September 10 Faculty Senate agenda should be submitted to Liz no later than August 20.