

LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 10–15:
Challenging the Membership of Unelected Faculty Senators
Sponsored by Senator Larry Crumbley

Whereas both the constitution and the bylaws of the Faculty Senate repeatedly mandate elections of faculty senators; in fact, the very first sentence of the constitution declares:

“The Faculty Senate shall consist of members of the Faculty Council [= all faculty on the LSU A&M campus] duly *elected* in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution” (emphasis added),

and a later sentence in the constitution declares:

“The Senate shall determine and publish the method of nomination and election of its members, provided, however, that each member of the Faculty Council shall at all times be entitled to nominate candidates *and to vote* for each Senate seat allocated to that member’s college or school not within a college” (emphasis added) , and

Whereas even the Regulations of the LSU Board of Supervisors (from which the LSU Faculty Senate derives its very right to exist) require that faculty senators be elected:

“The Faculty Council [of a campus] ... may delegate its own authority to an *elected* Faculty Senate ...” (emphasis added), and

Whereas on September 4, 2009, an email (Appendix 1 below) was broadcast to the faculty of the College of Science (then called the College of Basic Sciences, “BASC”) stating, in part: “In order to proceed with the election [of faculty senators], we must first nominate five candidates who will participate in the election later this month...,” but, while the nomination process occurred, the promised election did not, according to several faculty members in that college, and

Whereas on August 10, 2010, an email (Appendix 2 below) was broadcast to the faculty of the College of Science stating, in part: “In order to proceed with the election, we must first nominate six candidates who will participate in the election later next month...,” but, while the nomination process occurred, the promised election did not, according to several faculty members in that college, and

Whereas there is no need to assign blame for any possible shortcoming in the electoral process; rather, all that is needed is that the requirement of elections be enforced, and

Whereas it would be easy to administer an election, and voting is quick,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall appoint a committee of three LSU faculty members outside the College of Science, to inquire into the above reports, to seek any possible evidence of an election (such as a copy of a ballot, or a vote tally, or an announcement of the winners), and to report their findings to the Senate at its next meeting. If the Senate finds that any of the senators sent by the College of Science in 2009 or 2010 were merely nominated, but not elected, then the Senate will declare those Senate seats to be vacant until a special election has been held.

Appendix 1 (the 2009 broadcast)

Date: Fri, 4 Sep 2009 14:39 -0500
From: BASC Dean's Office <bascdean@lsu.edu>
To: Broadcast_BASC_Faculty@gateway.lsu.edu
Subj: Nomination of Faculty for Faculty Senate Election
Parts/Attachments: 42 KB Application

Dear BASC Faculty:

This memo targets the selection of candidates for the upcoming election of Faculty Senators for a two-year term, for we have three individuals who will end their terms this month, and due to the recent outcomes of a faculty census, we now have an additional seat in the Senate.

In order to proceed with the election, we must first nominate five candidates who will participate in the election later this month.

This nomination process will occur through the use of PAWS as a portal for data collection.

The link for you to go to for selecting the five (5) nominees can be found at:

<http://appl027.lsu.edu/comp/surveyapp.nsf/survey?OpenAgent&id=facultysen2>
<<http://appl027.lsu.edu/comp/surveyapp.nsf/survey?OpenAgent&id=facultysen2>>

You will need to enter your PAWS information and then you will have access to the data collection form for the nominees. You can only enter data once. Please refer to the pdf document attached to this email for a list of eligible faculty in BASC.

Please complete the nomination process by September 11, 2009.

Appendix 2 (the 2010 broadcast)

Date: Tue, 10 Aug 2010 14:21 -0500
From: College of Science Dean's Office <science@lsu.edu>
To: Broadcast_SCI_Faculty@gateway.lsu.edu
Subject: Nomination of Faculty for Faculty Senate Election

Dear SCI Colleagues:

The following senators from the SCI have terms ending this month:

Charles Delzell (Math)
Dottie Vaughn (Math)
Linda Allen (Chem)
George Stanely (Chem)
Juhan Frank (Phys)

This memo addresses the selection of candidates for the upcoming election of replacement Faculty Senators for a two-year term. In order to proceed with the election, we must first nominate six candidates who will participate in the election later next month.

This nomination process will be implemented through the use of PAWS as a portal for data collection. I have attached an excel file listing updated SCI faculty from which you may choose suitable candidates. The individuals whose names are highlighted in yellow serve in administrative positions and are not eligible for the election. However, departmental chairs are eligible. The link for you to go to for selecting the six (6) nominees can be found at:

<http://appl027.lsu.edu/comp/surveyapp.nsf/survey?OpenAgent&id=facultysen4>
[appl027.lsu.edu]

You will need to enter your PAWS information and then you will have access to the data collection form for the nominees. You can only enter data once.

Regards,
Phil Adams

Please complete the nomination process by August 30, 2010.

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