

Background for ASPP Discussion: ASEC Election Calendar

Background

In recent years there has been difficulty adhering to the election calendar as specified in ASPP (see below). PPPC has been asked to look at relaxing some of the timeline specifications. We do not want to lose any of the intended value of the existing deadlines. There is one part that appears to impact only Assembly representatives. PPPC felt that the Assembly would be more able to determine how important that is, and so are offering 2 options for discussion.

There is no intent to limit the discussion to the 2 options offered. This is a starting point for the conversation, and other options would be welcome for consideration.

The current proposal

ASEC election calendar - 2 options

1. Maintain the end date of March 15, but remove all other specific dates. Probably the number of days for each step could or should be specified.
2. If the Assembly deems that there is no need to maintain the end date of March 15 (beginning of the assembly rep election period), set the end date of the last Assembly meeting of the academic year, and remove other specific dates. The number of days for the various steps could be specified.

ASPP on ASEC Election Timing (ASPP 14.12.A.7)

Election Processes.

- a. *Election at Large.* The ASEC shall be elected by the academic staff, from the academic staff at large.
- b. *Slate.*
 - i. *Nominees.* The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for the ASEC to be reported to the Assembly not later than the December Assembly meeting each year, or the January Assembly meeting if the December meeting has been canceled. The total number of nominees shall be at least two more than the number of vacancies.
 - ii. *Additional Nominees.* Additional nominees may be added by a petition signed by at least 10 Assembly representatives, or 50 members of the academic staff. The petition must be submitted to the Secretary of the Academic Staff within 10 working days after the Assembly meeting at which the initial slate is presented.
- c. *Timing.* ASEC members will be elected not later than March 15 each year and prior to the call for nominations for Assembly districts.
- d. *Elections.*
 - i. Election shall be by secret ballot. Those candidates receiving the most votes from those submitting legal ballots shall be sufficient for election providing the provisions of 14.12.A.6.b. are met. If one of the top candidates is ineligible, the next eligible candidate with the most votes will be elected.

- ii. The Assembly, the provost (or designee) and the Secretary of the Academic Staff shall ensure fair and impartial elections; shall certify the validity of all ballots; and shall tabulate and announce election results not later than 96 hours after the deadline for the return of ballots.

ASPP on Assembly Election Timing (ASPP 13.02.D)

Election Processes.

1. Nominations.

- a. Any member of the academic staff holding a paid appointment shall be eligible to serve in the Assembly.
- b. The Secretary of the Academic Staff shall seek nominations not later than March 15 of a district's election year. Any member of the academic staff may nominate an interested eligible member from her or his district for election to the Assembly. Nominations will be accepted by the Secretary of the Academic Staff until April 15 of a district's election year.
- c. Eligibility questions will be resolved by the Districting and Representation Committee.
- d. If there are no nominations at the time of election, the ASEC and the Secretary of the Academic Staff shall seek a volunteer from among the members of the district to serve the term. ASEC may appoint the volunteer as the representative of the district without conducting an election.

2. Elections.

- a. If the nominating procedure results in more than two nominees for a district, a primary election will be held not later than May 1. Voting will be by secret ballot, by district, and with only those persons belonging to the district being permitted to vote. The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes will be the final candidates.
- b. The final election for district representation will be held not later than May 15. Voting will be by secret ballot, by district, with only those persons belonging to the district being permitted to vote. A majority of those voting will be sufficient to elect the representative for that district.
- c. The ASEC, the provost(or designee), and the Secretary of the Academic Staff shall ensure fair and impartial elections, shall certify the validity of all ballots, and shall tabulate and announce the election results no later than 96 hours after the deadline for the return of ballots.
- d. If the nomination procedure results in only one nominee from a district, ASEC may appoint the unopposed candidate as the representative of the district without conducting an election.

The Perceived Issue

PPPC does not think it is coincidental that ASEC elections must be concluded by the time that the Secretary of the Academic Staff begins seeking Assembly nominations. There seems to be an effort to avoid an overlap of the 2 elections.

Our assessment is that the intent was to allow Assembly members to run for ASEC and have the results before the Assembly representative voting period. This seems to be primarily of relevance to Assembly representatives who might want to run for a position on ASEC. While it is

possible to run for both positions at the same time, an Assembly seat that becomes vacant at any time other than the annual election has a different process. Instead of an election, the position is filled via appointment by ASEC.

We would like to know how important it is to the Assembly to avoid this overlap of election periods, and what other options should be added to the 2 above.