

Rules Committee End of Year Report May 3, 2010

The Committee's principal charge for 2009/2010 was to re-examine the matter of term limits for faculty senators. Formerly there had been no term limits, but in the fall of 2006 a new policy went into effect limiting senators to two consecutive terms of three years, with the possibility of further re-election only after laying out for at least one year.

Committee members looked at EKU's benchmarks and also other Kentucky universities to see if they had term limits for their faculty senators. It was found that 6 of 19 benchmark institutions do have some type of term limits. Among Kentucky schools, including EKU, 4 of 8 have term limits. The Committee decided to survey EKU faculty senators via e-mail to ask which of the following they and their departments would prefer:

- a) the current term limits policy
- b) no term limits
- c) letting each dept. decide individually

Twenty-five of 40 departments (63%) responded to the survey with the percentages favoring each option being:

Option A–52%
Option B–8%
Option C–32%
Some combination of the options–8%

Because the results indicated a clear majority favoring the current term limits, the Rules Committee did not recommend change.

The Rules Committee also has a perpetual charge of updating the Senate's Internal Procedures and the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate (in the Faculty Handbook, Part VII). These were examined, but the committee did not see any changes to recommend for 2009/2010.

Matters which may need to be addressed by the Committee in 2010/2011:

1. Rules and procedures for the election of a faculty regent (in light of recent state legislation modifying who may vote and who may run)
2. Possibility of allowing nominations from the floor for Senate Vice Chair at the May meeting.

Rules Committee members:

Nancy McKenney, Chair
Ann Chapman
Margaret Foote
Julie Hensley
Jane Rainey