

Faculty Governance Positions have many different term starts

Proposal: For consistency, all faculty governance positions should begin upon the start of the academic year (Officers of the Faculty, FEC Members, Faculty Council Members, Faculty Assembly Delegates, Standing Committee Members, and Chairs of Standing Committees). Committees that elect a Chair from within should elect the chair in their first meeting in the Fall.

Rationale: A common question by faculty serving in Faculty Governance is what the exact dates are for their term start and term end. The current [Governing Documents](#) (*Constitution of the Faculty* and *Standing Rules of the Faculty Council*) make term start and end dates needlessly complicated. By my count, there are 6 different term starts. Some of these different start times may be necessary, but where possible, consistent start times would be less complicated and easier for everyone to understand. Sometimes term starts happen before the new members have been elected. Here are the six different term starts:

1. Term starting at conclusion of the last Faculty Council meeting of the year (Approx. April 29)
 - a. Officers of the Faculty
 - b. Faculty Executive Committee Members

“The officers of the Faculty and the members of the Faculty Executive Committee shall assume their new terms at the conclusion of the final Faculty Council meeting of the academic year.” (Constitution of the Faculty, Article VI, Section 3)

-
-
- c. Faculty Council Members

Constitution of the Faculty does not specify start term, but does state, “The Faculty of each unit entitled to an elected, voting member of the Faculty Council shall choose its representative, by a simple majority of the votes cast, no later than the second Thursday in April of each year to serve for a one-year term.” (Article VII, Section 1, B)

-
-
-
- d. Standing Committee Chairs (most)
- e. Standing Committee Members (most)

“The term of membership for members and the chairpersons of standing committees shall be two years beginning with the conclusion of the April Faculty Council meeting.” (Standing Rules of the Faculty Council, Article V, Section 1, B, 8)

-
2. Term starting with Convocation (Approx. August 17)
 - a. Faculty Assembly Delegates

“They shall be elected in the spring, and begin their terms of office at convocation following election.” (Standing Rules of the Faculty Council, Article VI, Section 2)

3. Term starting with start of academic year (Approx. August 17)

a. Grievance Committee Members

“The term of office shall begin on the first day of the academic year.” (Standing Rules of the Faculty Council, Article V, Section 4, A, 2) **NOTE:** This conflicts with the [Procedures for Resolving Faculty Grievances](#) (Section VIII.D) which state, “The term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the final Faculty Council meeting of the academic year.”

4. Term starting with end of academic year (Approx. May 17)

a. Hearing Committee Members

“The term of office shall begin and end at the end of the academic year (Spring Semester).” (Standing Rules of the Faculty Council, Article V, Section 4, B, 2)

5. Term starting with the first committee meeting of year (Approx. September 15-30)

a. Standing Committee Chairs elected within committee (most: FAPBC, Honors Council, Grievance Committee, Hearing Committee)

6. Term starting at conclusion of last committee meeting of year (Approx. ?)

a. Part-Time Faculty Committee Chair

“The committee chairperson shall be a full-time faculty member elected by its members at the committee’s last meeting each spring.” (Standing Rules of the Faculty Council, Article V, Section 6, C, 5) **NOTE:** In practice, has not worked this way.

b. Faculty Advisory Library Committee

“The chairperson of the FALC shall be elected each spring by the members of the committee.” (Standing Rules of the Faculty Council, Article V, Section 6, A, 5) **NOTE:** In practice, they are elected first meeting in the Fall.

Consultations: This issue was discussed at the October 2021 FEC meeting and it was suggested that all positions should begin at the start of the academic year, and to consult with the Hearing Committee and Grievance Committee on this proposed change. Both the Hearing Committee and Grievance Committee are fine with the proposal:

- Dan Dupre, Hearing Committee Chair, informed that the Hearing Committee overwhelmingly supports changing the start time of terms to the start of the academic year (August). They believe this would work better than their current term start.
- KR Subramanian, Grievance Committee Chair, informed that the Grievance Committee has no issues with start of the academic year and believe that is how they have been practicing (according to the Standing Rules).

Enclosures:

- Revisions to the *Constitution of the Faculty* [Article VI, Section 3 (pg. 6)]
- Revisions to the Standing rules of the Faculty Council [Article V, Section 1, B, 8 (pg. 6); Article V, Section 4, B, 2 (pg. 20); Article V, Section 6, A, 5 (pg. 21); and Article VI, Section 2 (pg. 26)]

Additionally, with consistent terms it will be easier to provide more precise start and end dates on the committee rosters. Currently, it only lists the year the term begins and the year the term ends. Someone whose 2-year term begins with academic year 2020-2021 and ends with academic year 2021-2022 is listed as “Elected - 2020” and “Term End – 2022”.

Current:

	Representative	Dept.	College	Alternate	Dept.	College	Elected	Term End
Competitive Grants Committee (CGC) [two-year term]								
Chair	Xiaoxia Newton	EDLD	COED	n/a			2020	2022
Arts + Architecture	Robert Campbell	ARTH	COAA	Kyounghee Kim	ARCH	COAA	2020	2022
Business	David Kerr	ACCT	COB	Ram Kumar	BISOM	COB	2021	2023

Proposed:

	Representative	Dept.	College	Alternate	Dept.	College	Term Start	Term End
Competitive Grants Committee (CGC) [two-year term]								
Chair	Xiaoxia Newton	EDLD	COED	n/a			8/17/2020	5/16/2022
Arts + Architecture	Robert Campbell	ARTH	COAA	Kyounghee Kim	ARCH	COAA	8/17/2020	5/16/2022
Business	David Kerr	ACCT	COB	Ram Kumar	BISOM	COB	8/16/2021	5/15/2023