

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Sense of the Senate Resolution Document Number SSR0122F

Date of Senate Approval 11/03/2022

Statement of Faculty Senate Resolution:

FWDC 2: Revised Faculty Election Timeline to Pilot Spring, 2023

Sense of the Senate Resolution

According to the UNC Asheville Faculty Handbook [Section 10.2.1.3](#), the Committee of the Tenured Faculty, the Post-Tenure Review Committee, the Faculty Committee on Hearings, and the Faculty Grievance Committee shall be elected in said order. In addition to electing faculty members to these four committees, elections are also held each spring to fill vacancies on the Faculty Senate, Faculty Assembly, and Academic Appeals.

To make the election process more efficient, we propose to pilot the following election timeline in Spring, 2023:

February 27 - March 3: Elections for Post-Tenure Review Committee, Faculty Senate,
Faculty Assembly Delegates

March 27 - March 31: Elections for the Committee of the Tenured Faculty, the Faculty Committee on Hearings, the Faculty Grievance Committee, Academic Appeals

According to the UNC Asheville Faculty Handbook Section 10.2, faculty members cannot serve concurrently on the following committees: the Committee on Hearings, the Faculty Grievance Committee, the Post-Tenure Review Committee, and the Committee of Tenured Faculty. The current required order of elections allows time for elected faculty members to be taken off of the ballots of other elections. While the proposed schedule runs three of these elections simultaneously in the second set of elections, we will not allow faculty members to accept a nomination for more than one of these committees. If someone who has not been nominated for more than one of these committees is elected to more than one of these committees, then they will be asked which committee they prefer to serve on and the next highest vote-getter will be appointed to the other committee.

Following elections in the spring, the Faculty Welfare and Development Committee will seek feedback on the revised schedule from faculty, the Administrative Program Associate for Faculty Senate, and ITS. Any permanent changes would go through the usual Faculty Senate review and approval process.

Rationale:

The proposed timeline greatly reduces the time commitment for the FWDC member leading the elections, the Faculty Senate Administrative Program Associate, and the ITS member who runs the election software. In the past, the elections have taken place over a two-month period. Emails are sent weekly to solicit nominations, display preview ballots, open each election, remind everyone to vote, and announce election results. Running multiple elections simultaneously would increase efficiency in this process. Ray Michaels in ITS currently oversees the election software, and he approved the revised schedule. Lisa Sellers, the Administrative Program Associate for Faculty Senate, assists FWDC with elections, and she also approved the revised schedule.

The proposed timeline also has the advantage that elections will conclude by March 31, which allows more time for FWDC to work on other committee appointments. The current language in the handbook requires elections to the Committee of the Tenured Faculty, the Post-Tenure Review Committee, the Faculty Committee on Hearings, and the Faculty Grievance Committee to be completed no later than the first Friday after April 15. The earlier proposed completion date for elections allows more time for FWDC to read faculty members' committee preference forms and prepare nominations for committees whose members are elected by the Faculty Senate (listed in [Section 10.3](#)). These nominations must be ready for the last Faculty Senate meeting of the year. Vacancies in all other standing committees (listed in [Section 10.4.1.4](#)) also need to be appointed by FWDC before the end of the semester.