

1 **FACULTY SENATE** **SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY**

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3 **FACULTY SENATE BILL 23-A-XX**

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5 Approved by the Faculty Senate XXXXXX

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7 **BRIEF SUMMARY:** Edits to condense and clarify the policy section of the Faculty Handbook
8 Chapter 1, Department Chairs.

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11 **ACTION OF BILL:** REVISING POLICY SECTION: CHAPTER 1 “DEPARTMENT
12 CHAIRS”.

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BE IT RESOLVED: subject to the passage and approval of both this bill and its companion bill
establishing a corresponding “procedures” section, Chapter 1, Department Chairs section of the
Faculty Handbook be amended by replacing the existing content with the following “policy”
section (with the companion “policy” to follow it in the *Handbook*):

14 **TITLE OF BILL (Department Chairs)**

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16 **Chapter 1, Department Chairs**

17 **Policy** Faculty Senate Bill xxxx begins here.

18 **The Responsibilities of Department Chairpersons**

19 The chairperson is the departmental administrative officer with faculty and administrative
20 responsibilities. The balance between these responsibilities suggests the need for considerable latitude in
21 the leadership style utilized by the chairperson.

22 The chairperson is authorized to speak for and on behalf of the department and links the
23 department to the office of the college dean and other appropriate university administrative offices. The
24 department chairperson represents the interests of the faculty and the department to the administration and
25 presents the administration’s position to the department.

26 The chairperson should be able to evaluate issues with a broad point of view and perceive the
27 consequences of decisions. The department chairperson assumes responsibility for those decisions
28 assigned to the department by university policies and procedures. The department chairperson considers
29 advice and judgment from department faculty when making recommendations, especially those regarding
30 curriculum development. A representative list of responsibilities is given in the procedure section.

31 **The Evaluation of Department Chairpersons**

32 The evaluation of a chairperson is a collegial process encouraging faculty participation in
33 departmental governance and provides balance to administrative decision-making responsibilities.
34 Evaluations of a department chairperson consider the many factors impacting the performance of a
35 department and the faculty and programs within the department.

36 The assessment of a department chairperson involves both formal and informal evaluation
37 mechanisms and periodic and extraordinary evaluations. Evaluations constructively assess individual
38 performance and suggest areas for improvement. During any evaluation process, the department
39 chairperson retains the right to resign the position. The resignation of the department chairperson will stop
40 any evaluation process.

41 **Formal and Informal Evaluations**

42 Departmental colleagues and administrators informally provide insights to the department
43 chairperson to improve overall leadership effectiveness. The dean meets with the department chairperson
44 annually to discuss administrative performance. A written summary of this meeting is shared with the
45 chairperson and the provost.

46 **Periodic Department Chairperson Evaluation**

47 In addition to an annual faculty review, (see the procedures section for chairperson annual review
48 procedure) a department chairperson is evaluated during the third year after the initial appointment. By
49 August 1 of the review year, the dean will inform the chairperson and provost, and initiate a department
50 evaluation by discussing the process and agreeing on the specific procedures to be followed. This
51 evaluation will occur the following semester, but not within the first four weeks or last four weeks.
52 Continuing appointment as chairperson is subject to this evaluation. After the initial evaluation, periodic
53 evaluations will continue on a three-year cycle unless an extraordinary review is initiated (See the
54 procedures section for extraordinary review procedures).

55 **The Periodic Evaluation Process**

56 **Guidelines for the Periodic Evaluation of Department Chairperson**

- 57 1. Adequate time should be provided throughout the process so individuals can effectively participate.
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- 59 2. Individual faculty and staff responses are collected by the dean before any written documents are
60 shared.
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- 62 3. Input from faculty, staff, students, other chairpersons, and administrators should be properly balanced.
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- 64 4. The evaluation should remain constructive.
65
- 66 5. Full departmental involvement should be stressed.
67
- 68 6. The need to provide anonymity should be balanced with the need to fulfill professional responsibility.

- 69 7. Opportunities for chairperson self-assessment should be encouraged.
- 70 8. Flexibility in the process should be maintained so differences between departments can be addressed.
- 71 9. Chairpersons will provide a Record of Service and curriculum vitae to faculty members to document
72 recent activities.

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74 **The Selection of a New Chairperson**

- 75 1. When a chairperson vacancy occurs, the department, dean and provost consult, and the provost
76 determines whether the search process is internal or external. Internal or external candidates may apply to
77 an external search.
- 78 2. The dean of the college arranges a meeting of all full-time faculty members in the department. At this
79 meeting, two decisions are made: first, a representative and diverse selection of departmental members of
80 the search committee are identified, and second, the method for choosing a chairperson of the search
81 committee is determined. Neither candidates for the position nor any faculty for whom there is a conflict
82 of interest shall serve on the search committee. At least one search committee member must be a current
83 chairperson at the university. After the search committee is established, an additional faculty member
84 from any other department in the University is added to the search committee. Both the dean of the
85 college and the search committee should agree on who will serve in this capacity. The additional faculty
86 member operates as a full member of the committee.
- 87 Approved by Faculty Senate 11/20/13, reviewed by President 4/14/15, Approved by Board of Regents
88 5/8/15

Action	Date
Introduced to Senate	09/14/2022
Second Senate Meeting	09/28/2022
Faculty Senate Vote	
President's Review	
Board of Regents Approval	
Posted to Faculty Handbook	