

September 15, 2020, 4pm. Political Science Department faculty meeting

Per KU policy during COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting was conducted via a secure meeting room online.

Present: Don Haider-Markel, Nazli Avdan, Brittnee Carter, Hannah Britton, Paul Johnson, John Kennedy, Patrick Miller, Kevin Mullinix, Robert Rohrschneider, Clay Webb, and Jack Zhang.

Observing: POLS Office Manager, Linda Pickerel

Guest: CLAS Associate Dean Ben Eggleston

Absent: Gary Reich and Mike Wuthrich; Mariya Omelicheva (on leave)

The chair provided a few updates and welcomed CLAS Associate Dean Ben Eggleston to the meeting. The primary purpose of the meeting for Associate Dean Eggleston to explain the CLAS process for selecting the next chair.

The current chair's term end in June 2021. Associate Dean Eggleston explained that there would be a search, internal to CLAS, for a chair, with the search committee consisting of a committee of the whole for POLS. That committee would have a chair. The committee will consider applications, conduct interviews and conduct approval voting on any candidates. The search committee chair will draft a report that includes the approval voting to be submitted to the Dean for consideration in selecting the next chair.

Additional details from Associate Dean Eggleston were provided in a follow-up email to the faculty:

"The next step in the process is for the program to constitute a search committee. The CLAS guidelines (<https://policy.ku.edu/CLAS/procedures-for-selection-of-chairs>) say the following on this topic:

The search committee is formed at the unit level in accordance with the bylaws of the unit. The department/program has several options for constituting a search committee: election of members, entrusting the responsibility to an existing elected group within the unit, or serving as a committee of the whole. At the recommendation of the Dean, search committees may be augmented with faculty members from outside the unit to serve on the committee as external voting member(s). For interdisciplinary units, it is expected that faculty members will be drawn from the various discipline constituencies that comprise the unit. While University policy states that students may not serve as voting members on personnel committees, individual unit bylaws may allow staff

members to serve on the search committee. In all searches, both student and staff input should be sought and considered in a way that protects their confidentiality.

The search committee shall elect a tenured faculty member from among its members to serve as committee chairperson. The search committee chairperson's responsibilities include close and continuous liaison with the Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs.

There are a few aspects of this that I want to clarify:

- The first sentence says "The search committee is formed at the unit level in accordance with the bylaws of the unit." Many units' bylaws do not talk about how to form a search committee for a new chair or director. In such a case, any fair decision-making process is fine.
- Regardless of what your bylaws say, a committee of the whole (except for anyone who is the current chair or director, or a candidate for the position, or a candidate's partner, including spouse) is always a welcome choice.
- In regard to "faculty members from outside the unit to serve on the committee as external voting member(s)," I have no particular recommendations on this topic.
- When the committee is electing its chairperson, they may want to know that person's duties. The main duties are (1) interacting with me and my assistant, Amanda Burghart, about administrative tasks and (2) writing up the results of the committee's recommendations about the applicants, and submitting that information to me for John Colombo's review.

Given all of the above, at your earliest convenience, would you have your colleagues constitute a search committee and ask that committee to determine its chair, and ask that person to contact me? After I hear from that person, I will send a draft of the position description for the search committee to review and comment on, before John and I finalize it for posting at <https://employment.ku.edu>."

A question and answer period followed.

When questions had been exhausted, Associate Dean Eggleston exited the video meeting.

The chair called to order approval of the previous faculty meeting minutes. The minutes were from April 2019 and did not include a discussion of the email exchange from March 2020 that selected the committee membership for the 2020-21 AY. A motion was made, seconded, and the motion passed in approval voting.

After some prodding Paul Johnson announced he would likely be retiring his professorship at the end of the semester for a position in the private sector.

After a few additional updates on conditions on campus, the meeting was adjourned before 5pm