

Sec. 3.3.5 The Divisional or Departmental Officers

A. Appointment and Tenure

The chair of any division or department and the director of any institute or school within a unit shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the dean after approval of the appropriate vice president and President of the University. Such officers serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees and may be removed at any time upon the recommendation of the President.

In units offering programs in the Graduate School, the dean of the unit shall consult with the Dean of the Graduate School before recommending appointment of divisional or departmental officers to the appropriate vice president when such officers have administrative responsibility for programs of the Graduate School.

B. Selection

1. Searches for divisional or departmental officers may be limited to internal candidates at the discretion of the dean. In such cases, the departmental faculty shall submit a slate of candidates to the dean, from which the dean may strike any candidates. Before making a recommendation, the dean shall seek the concurrence of the departmental faculty by one of two methods: Method 1: The departmental faculty may vote on all acceptable candidates. Method 2: The departmental faculty may vote on the candidate tentatively selected by the dean. When the dean and a majority of the departmental faculty concur on a candidate, the dean may recommend that person via the appropriate vice president for approval by the President and Board of Trustees. If there is an impasse in this process, the dean and departmental faculty shall each submit written reports to the appropriate vice president, or provost if the dean is also a vice president, who shall recommend a departmental officer to the President and Board of Trustees.
2. Searches for divisional or departmental officers open to both internal or external candidates shall be conducted by a search committee, the majority of whose members shall be full-time faculty of the unit involved. The candidate selected by the dean shall be acceptable to a majority of the departmental or divisional faculty. If there is an impasse in this process, the dean and departmental faculty shall each submit written reports to the appropriate vice president, or provost if the dean is also a vice president, who shall recommend a departmental officer to the President and Board of Trustees.

C. Duties and Responsibilities

The officer of a department, division, institute or school within a unit shall be the educational and administrative head of that group. The chair or director of any department, school, institute, or division shall be immediately responsible to the dean of the unit for work and progress of the department or division. The faculty in each department, led by the department chair, shall develop a mission statement and specific goals and objectives for the department's academic mission, which shall be approved by the dean. Such officers shall be responsible for implementing the mission statement and specific goals and objectives through administration of faculty workload plans, space, equipment, staff, budgets, and other resources in the department, consistent with university policy and the law. In units offering work in the Graduate School, the chair or director shall be responsible for executing graduate programs in accordance with established standards, subject to review and evaluation by the Dean of the Graduate School.

D. Evaluation and Review

1. The performance of all chairs and directors shall be reviewed annually by the dean with input from appropriate senior administrators and faculty. A written summary shall be prepared of each evaluation indicating compliance with policies and objectives.

2. After every five years of service, the performance and effectiveness of each chair or director shall be reviewed on a cumulative basis by a broad-based committee established with the concurrence of the departmental faculty. The officer under review shall be informed of the basis of all conclusions and offered an opportunity to respond before the report is completed. The chair or director may be retained or removed on the basis of a committee recommendation with which the departmental faculty and dean concur. In the event of an impasse on the outcome of a review, the dean and the departmental faculty shall each submit a report with that of the review committee to the appropriate vice president, or provost if the dean is a vice president, for a final decision. All such reports are preliminary recommendations and shall be kept confidential. The criteria, procedures, and a substantive summary of the findings shall be made available in confidence to the faculty of the department or division involved. The summary shall be written by the committee in consultation with the dean or dean's designee.
3. Deans may conduct special reviews of administrative subordinates at any time as may be necessary to assure effective leadership and may recommend removal of a chair or director at any time for any reason that is not illegal or arbitrary.

A majority of departmental faculty may request a special review of a chair or director at any time. If, after consultation with the departmental faculty, the dean does not support such a request and the faculty do not recede from the request, the matter shall be referred to the appropriate vice president, or provost if the dean is a vice president, for a decision after consultation with all parties.