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November 18, 2008

TO: Sabrina Baron
Chair, Senate Elections, Representation & Governance Committee

FROM: Kenneth G. Holum 
Chair, University Senate

SUBJECT: Eligibility Timeline for Staff Elections (Senate Document Number 08-09-13)

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) requests that the Elections, Representation & Governance (ERG) Committee provide advice on the eligibility timeline requirements for the election of Staff to the Senate.

The Senate Bylaws do not clearly state the length of time that a Staff member has to be employed at the University of Maryland College Park prior to becoming a Senator. Senate Office documentation states that Staff must be employed as of May of the year prior to taking their Senate seat. This timeline is reflected in copies of the Senate candidacy applications for the past 10 years. There is no written guideline as to why this timeline was implemented. Our best educated guess is that this period coincides with the Staff probationary period. However, now that Staff have been divided into non-exempt and exempt classifications, the probationary periods are 6 months and 12 months respectively.

The SEC would like your advice on the following:

1. Should we make the eligibility timeline correspond to the probationary period of each Staff category? (ie. Non-Exempt Staff must be employed 6 months prior and Exempt Staff must be employed 12 months prior to taking their Senate seat)
2. Should we leave the timeline as is for all Staff? (ie. All Staff must be employed 12 months prior to taking their Senate seat)
3. Should we make some other timeline change that also seems reasonable?

We ask that you submit your report and recommendations to the Senate Office no later than December 15, 2008. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Reka Montfort in the Senate Office, extension 5-5804.

KGH/rm