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TO: Kenneth G. Holum
Chair, University Senate

FROM: Sabrina Baron
Chair, ERG Committee

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

On November 18, 2008, the SEC charged the ERG Committee to provide advice on the eligibility timeline requirements for the election of Staff to the Senate. ERG considered this charge at our regular meeting on November 19, 2008.

From the minutes of our meeting:

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.

In this context, the Committee believes that the following should be added to the end of clause 2.1.c of the Bylaws: "Staff candidates for the Senate must have been employed at the University of Maryland College Park for 12 months prior to standing as candidates for Senate. Staff members may not stand for Senate elections while in the probationary period of employment."

Further, clause 2.1.d should have the following language added at the end: "Such ex officio members should also have been employed by the University of Maryland College Park for 12 months prior to standing as candidates for the Senate."

In short, the Committee believes that 12 months of prior employment to should apply to all members of the University community who stand for Senate seats.