

Department of Political Science

Chair Selection Process

(as per College instructions)

Subj: Chair Appointment in Political Science

Date: March 12, 2009

As you know, Jeff Isaac has announced that he will be resigning as chair effective June 30, 2009, so we must initiate the process to fill the position for the next term. On behalf of the Dean's office and his departmental colleagues, I want to express my gratitude to Jeff for his excellent work as the steward of the Department of Political Science.

Although methods and traditions for electing or reappointing chairs will vary across departments, please be sure to include the following two steps in the nomination process:

1. Prior to the deadline requested for receipt of recommendations, a faculty meeting should be held for the express purpose of discussing a department's goals, achievements and directions in the context of thinking about the issue of leadership.

1. A suitably designed balloting procedure should be used to poll the collective preference of the faculty; my office can help as needed.

If so inclined, individual faculty members are welcome to send me their thoughts on leadership in the department, or to make an appointment to talk with one of the associate deans. I also want to remind you that after receipt of departmental recommendations, the final decision on the chair appointment is made by me, based partly on compatibility with my administrative philosophy and reasonableness of personal requests. I also want to mention that allocation of faculty lines and other resources to a department will be based on plans, priorities, and fiscal contingencies, and not as a result of "chair negotiations."

I request that departmental recommendations be forwarded to me no later than April 15th, 2009.

Cheers,
Bennett