

Indiana University  
Department of Sociology

**Policy on Chair Succession**

The process for selecting a new Department chair will begin six months before the incoming chair is scheduled to assume office. The outgoing chair will consult privately with every tenured faculty member, asking them if they are interested in becoming a candidate for chair. The chair will also consult privately with all faculty members to solicit names of those who should be considered. The outgoing chair may need to re-consult those who have been nominated by others but who did not initially indicate an interest in the position. Only faculty members who have obtained tenure and achieved the rank of associate or full professor are eligible. The stable list of eligible candidates interested in serving as chair is then made available to all faculty and graduate students in the Department, and a discussion period of no less than four weeks ensues. At the end of the discussion period, a vote among the tenured and tenure-track faculty is taken by secret written ballots. If no candidate receives a simple majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is dropped from the ballot, and the voting process is repeated until one candidate is elected by a simple majority. The outgoing chair will report the complete results of this election to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who makes the final decision about the next chair. References to voting tenured and untenured faculty in this policy include all full time faculty and faculty with part time or split appointments using the criteria for voting for tenure decisions.

Passed unanimously by the 18 faculty members present at the meeting that took place on Thursday, January 22, 2009.