

## Communication Department Chair Election Timeline

Communication Department Chair Helen Acosta will be stepping down effective June 30, 2023.

This will be a “vacated chair” scenario.

We’ll follow the procedure given in the Senate By-Laws Article VI, Section 4(b): “A vacated chair position will be replaced by a department chair election as described in the bargaining unit’s agreement within the timeframe of Article II.12 of the Constitution and follow the procedures for solicitation of nominees and election described in Sections 5 and 6 of this Article.”

Section 5(a) says we need to give at least two weeks for the solicitation of nominees. Then the ballots are sent out. It has been usual procedure that we give one week for the voting period.

A big problem is that Article II, Section 12 of the Constitution says, “Time-oriented references refer to contractual working days during Fall and Spring semesters.” That means all of this is supposed to happen before the end of Spring semester. The normal timeline I’ve described above is THREE weeks long.

One way around this is Section 7 of Article VI of the By-Laws: “The Senate (body rep.), by a two-thirds majority vote, may substitute special election procedures if circumstances not anticipated by this Article should occur.”

Tarina has already sent out the nomination call ASAP to get the process started. The question before the Senate is will you agree to a one-week nomination period, followed by a vote that concludes by Thursday of finals week?

We had a similar scenario last academic year with the Behavioral Science chair election and the Senate approved that shortening of the timeline.