

## SENATE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE POSITION ON SEARCH COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE

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The Senate Administrative Review Committee (ARC) has reviewed the issue of Senate representation on every University search committee at the level of Dean and above. Over the past few weeks, we became aware that a search for Dean of Medicine (DOM) was proceeding without University Senate representation. The Senate Executive Committee (EC) met on 11/2/2009 to discuss their previous meeting with President Stanley, and reported that President Stanley felt they were too far along into the search process to add Senate representation to the DOM search committee, and that future Senate representation on University search committees was not certain. The EC also requested that the ARC provide brief bios for each of the members so the University administration could evaluate the potential contribution of the committee to future searches.

Following these comments, the committee discussed the University governance issues associated with Senate presence on all Dean and above search committees. No ARC member was aware of any Dean and above search committee in the past without ARC participation, including searches for Provost, VP of HSC, Dean of Nursing, Dean of Dental School, Dean of Stony Brook Southampton, Dean of Business School, and Dean of MSRC (now SoMAS). One committee member reported that this governance practice has been in place for at least the past 30 years. We are not aware of any University or SUNY by-laws that codify the practice, but ARC membership on these committees ensures transparency in high-level University searches. Moreover, we consider any deviation from these practices to be a weakening of University governance.

We consider the primary purpose of the Senate presence on Dean and above search committees is to ensure transparency, and consequently the background of potential Senate search committee members is not a basis for exclusion from any committee. As a result, we do not intend to provide the requested brief bio of each of the ARC members, but we will continue the practice of recommending individuals who can contribute to each search committee. From the experience of the ARC members who have participated in such searches, a late addition to a search committee does not compromise the intent of the search nor does it disrupt or delay the actions of the search committee. Consequently, we request that the Senate continue to insist that a Senate representative be included in the DOM search. We further request that the Senate determine the basis for the above governance practices and use the information to pursue a continuation of these practices, through either the University administration or the SUNY Senate. The ARC is in unanimous agreement on these issues.