

12 | Department Head Search

Revised: September 13, 2024

Next Scheduled Review: September 13, 2029

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GUIDELINE SUMMARY

These guidelines have been established to aid Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in recruiting the best faculty, promoting a positive relationship between the faculty and the university administration, and ensuring that all levels of the university function effectively.

PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 GENERAL

University SAP 12.99.99.M0.03, *Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Department Heads*, provides that the size and precise makeup of the search committee will vary according to circumstances, but the following two principles are fundamental:

- 1.1 A majority of the members must be faculty members of the department concerned. Other constituencies which might be represented include (but are not limited to) faculty from other departments, technical staff, students, relevant agencies, and various university programs.
- 1.2 A majority of the faculty representatives from the department concerned must be elected by the faculty of that department. The dean may appoint additional members to ensure broad representation of groups within the department.

Although these provisions allow the elected faculty members to be as small as 25 percent, in most cases the proportion should be significantly larger.

2.0 GUIDELINES

To comply with this guideline, the Vice Chancellor/Dean, in consultation with the Cabinet, will appoint Search Advisory Committees for department head positions in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas AgriLife Research, and Texas AgriLife Extension Service using the following Guidelines:

- 2.1 Three to five faculty will be elected by the faculty of the department. Faculty includes all Texas A&M University System employees (a) who have the title of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Principal Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer, Extension Specialist, Research Professor, Research Assistant/Associate Professor, or Clinical Professor, Clinical Assistant/Associate Professor, and (b) for whom the department has primary responsibility for promotion evaluation, or whose annual performance evaluation is conducted by the department head.
- 2.2 Once the results of the election are available, another two to five faculty will be appointed to ensure broad representation of faculty groups, by rank, responsibilities (teaching, research, and extension), subject matter expertise, etc.
- 2.3 One to two members will be appointed to represent the staff in the department.
- 2.4 One undergraduate and one graduate student will be appointed.

- 2.5 Additional members may be appointed to represent other departments, intercollegiate faculties, institutes, and other units that are related to the department.
- 2.6 The chair typically will be appointed from among the other department heads in the College or from among faculty with administrative experience at the University.
- 2.7 In cases where the department has a specific external constituency or constituencies, a separate stakeholder advisory committee may be appointed to represent these groups. This committee will report directly to the Vice Chancellor/Dean and Cabinet.

RELATED STATUTES, POLICIES, OR REQUIREMENTS

[Texas A&M University SAP 12.99.99.M0.03, Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Department Heads](#)

CONTACT OFFICE

Questions regarding this guideline should be referred to the AgriLife Ethics and Compliance Office at 979.314.3442.

REVISION HISTORY

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