A&S&E Committee on Committees
Annual Report 2003–2004

The main business of the committee is to staff appointed committees and to recruit candidates for elections to elected committees. There are always some additional changes during the year, and this year some further adjustments were needed because of the transition of some committees into their new configuration as voted by the faculty in the preceding academic year.

The committee would like to acknowledge and thank Catherine Doheney with great gratitude. She provides invaluable support for the committee and does so intelligently, cheerfully, and effectively. We would also like to thank those faculty colleagues who truly believe in faculty governance and do their part to this end.

Faculty self-governance relies on faculty willing to give time to the process. The Committee on Committees has historically relied on the good graces of a willing faculty to supply the necessary time for faculty self-governance. The trend in past years, however, has been an increasingly less willing faculty. This year the Committee on Committees was required to find engineers willing to stand for election to the Executive Committee, but it was extremely difficult to do. By the time of election there was only one engineering candidate. There appears to be a diffusion of responsibility wherein faculty members decline believing there will always be another willing faculty member. The agreement between the Committee on Committees and the Executive Committee to use department chairs to assist in recruiting was partially, although not fully implemented this year. The partial implementation did not effectively resolve the recruiting issues. It will be the goal of the Committee on Committees in this coming year to fully implement this strategy to better evaluate whether it might lead to greater success. We do, however, have lingering doubts as to the success of this strategy. We have no additional concrete proposals for addressing the recruiting crisis, but do note that this year adds to the long-term trend. We will seek additional input on this from both the administration and the Executive Committee.

The Committee on Committees did make one substantial change to recruitment for the Committee on Tenure and Promotion (T&P). The primary change involved the timing for T&P. Beginning this year, elections will take place one academic year prior to the start of a T&P term. For example, election for a term beginning in fall 2005 took place this spring 2004. This change allows for greater planning by T&P in terms of changeover to new members. Because this strategy was implemented this year, elections involved terms for both 2004 through 2007 and 2005 through 2008. Next year we will recruit for the term 2006 through 2009.

The other change to the T&P elections involved providing additional information about candidates on the ballot. In addition to each candidate’s name and department, a brief biographical sketch appeared on the ballot. This additional information should lead to more informed voting.

For the committee: Holly A. Taylor

Members
Harry Bernheim, biology
Boris Hasselblatt, mathematics (on leave spring 2004)
Karen Panetta, electrical engineering
Peter L.D. Reid, classics
John C. Ridge, geology
Holly A. Taylor, psychology
Ex Officio
Lawrence Bacow, president
Support Staff
Catherine Doheney, Secretary of the Faculty