

Background In July 2010, Dr. Jerry Gilbert asked the Robert Holland Faculty Senate to consider the addition of Instructional Faculty as a category of ranks within the General Faculty. As part of the Faculty Senate's deliberations, the Faculty Affairs Committee recommended that the Senate host open forum discussions with the Provost for clarification about the new category of promotion-eligible instructional faculty. Two open forum sessions were held during the Fall 2011 semester. In the September 2011 meeting, the Faculty Affairs Committee unanimously recommended approval of this category. The Faculty Senate endorsed, with a 26 to 10 vote, approval of Instructional Faculty as a new category of ranks within the General Faculty. This action has initiated the need for a vote by the General Faculty who "is the final judge in all questions concerning its composition" (Faculty Handbook: www.msstate.edu/web/faculty_handbook/iii.html). Approval will require a two-thirds majority vote of those voting.

Process The Senate will bring the following question before the General Faculty at the November 9th General Faculty meeting:

Shall the General Faculty approve the category of Instructional Faculty (with ranks of Assistant Instructional Professor, Associate Instructional Professor, and Instructional Professor)?

To assist faculty members in considering this recommendation, the Faculty Senate will host three open forums to discuss Instructional Faculty with Dr. Gilbert. The first two sessions will be held in room 329 of the Colvard Student Union on the Starkville campus on Tuesday, October 18th 3:30 and Monday, October 24th at 3:00. The third session will be held in room 112 on the Meridian campus on Tuesday, October 25th at 2:00.

The General Faculty meeting will be held at 2:00 Wednesday, November 9th in the Foster Ballroom, Salon U, in the Colvard Student Union and simultaneously webcast. To enable broad participation and authentication of voter eligibility, voting will occur online only and will be anonymous (computers will be available at the Union location). The online voting will open once discussion on the motion is complete and will remain open until 6 p.m.

The tabulation of the vote and report of the outcome will be communicated via e-mail announcement to the General Faculty on Thursday, November 10th.

Please familiarize yourself with the materials available on the Faculty Senate website (www.facultysenate.msstate.edu), attend the forums as appropriate and vote on this matter Wednesday, November 9th.