Board of Trustees Bylaws

Section 9.1. Department Organization.
a. Each department, subject to the approval of the faculty or faculty council, where existent, and subject to the provisions of other sections of these bylaws, shall have control of the educational policies of the department through the vote of all of its members who have faculty rank or faculty status; and if the department so desires, it may enfranchise persons in visiting professorial titles and other members who have been appointed on an annual salary basis for a first or second year of full-time service to vote on departmental matters except for the election of department chairpersons, departmental committee on personnel and budget, or departmental committee on appointments. Each department shall cooperate with related departments and with college agencies in general in the development of college-wide interests.
b. The executive officer of the department shall be the department chairperson who shall be a professor, associate professor or assistant professor elected by secret ballot for a term of three years, except as provided below, by a majority vote of all the members of the instructional staff of the department who have faculty rank. Proxy or mail voting shall not be permitted. The department chairperson must be tenured or have been approved by the board for tenure at the time of his/her election, except in departments less than seven years old. Such elections shall be subject to the subsequent approval of the president and the board. The present system of staggered departmental elections shall be continued. The successors of department chairpersons shall be elected during the first full week in May at the expiration of the respective terms of office to take office as of July first of the year in which they are elected and at the three year intervals thereafter. Vacancies shall be filled by election for the unexpired term. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing to the contrary, in the library department, the president of the college shall from time to time recommend a member of the department to the board for designation as chairperson. Department chairpersons who are not tenured professors, associate professors or assistant professors on January 1, 1976 may fill out their unexpired terms as chairpersons, subject to the provisions of sections 9.1. (c) and 9.6. (a) of these bylaws.
c. In any case where the president does not approve the election of a department chairperson, or at such other time as the interests of the college may require the removal of a chairperson and the appointment of a new one, he/she shall confer with the department and thereafter shall report to the board any subsequent action by the department with respect thereto, together with his/her own recommendation for a chairperson. The recommendation by the president to the board for the designation of the department chairperson should take place only after careful consideration by the president of the qualifications of those selected by the respective departments. The president shall base his/her recommendation on the capacity of the individual selected to act effectively as the departmental administrator and spokesperson and as a participant in the formation, development, and interpretation of college-wide interest and policy.