

University Senate Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I eligible to vote or be elected to the University Senate?

Eligibility parameters for both faculty and staff are laid out in the University Bylaws, Article IX:

Faculty: Voting members of the faculty of each constituency consist of all full-time faculty holding the following titles: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Instructor, Lecturer, Professor-in-Residence, and Instructor-in-Residence.

Professional Staff: full-time defined as nine months or more. (I) full-time, management exempt employees not included in the faculty or administrative constituencies (II) full-time, non-student professional staff represented by the professional employees collective bargaining unit and not included in the faculty constituency (III) full-time professional staff represented by the faculty collective bargaining unit but not included in the faculty constituency.

When do University Senate Elections Occur?

The at-Large constituency elections (faculty and professional staff) must take place during the Fall Semester¹. All other constituency elections take place during the early Spring semester. All election processes take place between October – March.

How can I participate in University Senate Elections?

In accordance with the University Bylaws, Article IX, all full-time faculty and staff who have been at the University for at least one year are eligible both to participate in their relevant constituency election(s) as a voter, and a nominee on the ballot.

During the election cycle for each constituency, there will be two ballots sent to voters:

- **Nomination Slate:** includes the names of people nominated to be on the election ballot. This slate gives all eligible voters 7 days' notice to review the nominees and

¹ Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate, Article I,3.c.

add any additional nominees via petition. Petitions must be endorsed by five members of the constituency in support of a candidate and submitted before the Nomination Slate closes. The sending of this slate is also formal notice to all persons listed as nominees that they have seven days to remove their name from the ballot, if desired, by sending an email to universitysenate@uconn.edu.

Processes for getting on the Nomination Slate are different depending on which constituency election is taking place.

- At-Large Elections (Fall): the University Senate Nominating Committee puts together the Nomination Slates for these constituency elections. Nominees are formally notified of their nomination via the Nomination Slate process.
- Other Constituency Elections (Spring): each other constituency votes on who, from the list of eligible nominees on the Nomination Slate, ends up on the Voting Ballot. These elections require voters to vote twice – first to select their top preferences on the Nomination Slate the results of which are listed on the Voting Ballot.
- Voting Slate: once the nominees have been finalized via the Nomination Slate, a ballot will be sent to all voting members of the constituency including an updated list of nominees (anyone added by petition, and those persons removed by request no longer listed). This slate gives all eligible voters 7 days to participate in the election and the top winner(s) will be offered the Senate seat accordingly.

All faculty and staff elected to serve in the University Senate shall have a term of three years, starting July 1 of the year immediately following the election.

What are the Senate Constituencies?

The University Senate is comprised of 104 voting members and represents all faculty, staff and students at UConn, determined by constituencies laid out in the University Bylaws, Article IX. There are 72 constituency seats reserved for faculty, and 17 constituency seats reserved for the professional staff.

For both faculty and staff, there are school/college or unit specific constituencies as well as an at-large constituency which represents all eligible faculty or staff, respectively.

The faculty constituency structure ensures that all eligible faculty members are represented by (and eligible for election to) two faculty constituencies at any given time.

Faculty members can expect to be contacted to participate in the Nominating and Voting Ballots for at least one, if not two constituency ballots during each academic year.

Professional staff constituencies are structured so that all eligible staff are represented by at least one constituency (at-Large); some professional staff may be represented by a second.

You can search the Senate Membership list by constituency on the [Senate website](#) to see which Senators represent which constituency.

Where can I learn more about Senate Elections and other Senate Information?

Please contact universitysenate@uconn.edu with questions any time and a staff member will assist. For more information, additional resources are available on the Senate website:

- [About the University Senate | University Senate](#)
- [Resources for Senators | University Senate](#)
- [University Senate Elections | University Senate](#)
- [University Senate Handbook](#)

Note: this FAQ focuses primarily on elections related to faculty and staff; information regarding Undergraduate and Graduate Student appointments to the University Senate can be found in the Senate Handbook and the University Bylaws