

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: The voting members of the faculty of each constituency shall consist of all full-time faculty holding the following titles: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Instructor, and Lecturer, including those designated as Clinical, in-Residence, or Extension¹.

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 constituency².

When do University Senate Elections Occur?

All Senate elections must take place between the months of October – March. At-Large elections take place during a different time from specific constituency elections.

How can I participate in University Senate Elections?

In accordance with the University Bylaws, Article IX, all eligible full-time faculty and staff who have been at the University for at least one year when the given election cycle begins may participate in their relevant constituency election(s) as a voter, and 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 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.

¹ University By-Laws, Article IX.B.2 (Elections; Faculty Constituencies)

² University By-Laws, Article IX.B.3 (Elections; Professional Staff Constituencies)

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

- At-Large Elections: 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: 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. On occasion, an elected term may be adjusted to allow for appropriate staggering of terms on a case-by-case basis.

What are the Senate Constituencies?

The University Senate includes non-voting (ex-officio) members and voting members. The University Senate represents all faculty, staff and students at UConn, determined by constituencies laid out in the University Bylaws, Article IX. All faculty and staff members are elected to serve in the University Senate by their individual constituency.

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

Representation:

Deans Constituency	4 members	Of the four seats designated to this constituency, one must be filled by a Campus Dean of one of the Regional Campuses (Avery Point, Hartford, Stamford, Waterbury) ³
Faculty Constituencies: -at-Large (6 seats) -Individual School/College -Regional Campuses	The number of senators to be elected from each constituency will be one for each twenty-five faculty members or major fraction thereof within that constituency, with the proviso that each school, college or regional campus will have at least one senator ⁴ .	The faculty electoral constituencies will elect six at-large members. No school/college shall have more than one faculty representative elected at-large ⁵ .
Professional Staff Constituencies: -at-Large -Academic Development (3 seats) -Student Life & Enrollment (3 seats) -University Libraries (1 seat) -Regional Campuses (1 seat per campus) -Schools/Colleges (1 seat) -University Support Services	There shall be one senator for every 125 eligible staff members or major fraction thereof ⁶ .	All professional staff shall elect the remaining professional staff seats to an at-large constituency ⁷

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

³ University By-Laws, Article IX.B.1 (Elections; Deans Constituency)

⁴ University By-Laws, Article IX.B.2.a (Elections; Faculty Constituencies; Faculty Constituency Elections)

⁵ University By-Laws, Article IX.B.2.b (Elections; Faculty Constituencies; At-Large Elections)

⁶ University By-Laws, Article IX.B.3 (Professional Staff Constituencies)

⁷ University By-Laws, Article IX.B.3.g (Professional Staff Constituencies)

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 Ex-Officio Senate Members and Undergraduate and Graduate Student appointments to the University Senate can be found in the Senate Handbook, the University Bylaws and the [Senate website](#)