

SENATE ELECTION PROCEDURES

[The University of Western Ontario Act \(1988\)](#) defines in Sections 24 and 25 the composition of Senate, general provisions for election of members, including eligibility for candidacy and voting, the establishment of a staggering of terms at the time of first elections, and a provision for the designation of constituencies within units.

A. CONSTITUENCIES: FACULTY, ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, GRADUATE STUDENTS

A.1 General

1. The Secretary of the Senate shall be the Chief Returning Officer.
2. The schedule for calling of nominations, publication of candidates' names, and time lines for balloting shall be as published by the Secretary of the Senate.
3. Elections of faculty from the Affiliated University Colleges are conducted by each Affiliated University College, with the winners' names being forwarded to the Secretary of Senate.
4. With the exception of faculty elected from the Affiliated University Colleges, candidates for election must be nominated by means of an official nomination form available from the Secretary of the Senate and accessible on the Secretariat's website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/>
5. Nomination forms for staff and students must be signed by 10 persons eligible to vote in the constituency concerned. A nominator may not nominate more candidates than there are seats to be filled in the constituency.
6. Nomination forms for faculty from the Constituent University shall be signed in one of the following ways:
 - (a) by 10 members eligible to vote in the academic unit or constituency to be represented; or
 - (b) by the Nominating Committee of the Council of the Faculty or School through the Chair of the Nominating Committee or the Dean.
7. Nominees must declare on the nomination form:
 - (a) that they are willing to stand as candidates for election and to serve if elected; and
 - (b) that they meet the eligibility requirements for the constituency.
8. Any person nominated who is not available to sign the nomination form is permitted to notify the Secretary of Senate by mail, fax or email of his/her intention to be a candidate up until the final deadline for call for nominations.
9. Nominees may submit with the nomination form a biographical statement or other comments up to a limit of 75 words and/or a digital photograph for publication. The Secretary shall have discretion in restricting the published statement to 75 words should that submitted be in excess of this limit. The statement and/or the digital photograph of the candidate will be posted on the election website and linked to the ballot, and by submitting the statement and/or photograph, candidates agree to such posting.
10. Errors or irregularities on a nomination form constitute grounds for rejection of the nomination by the Secretary of the Senate.
11. When only sufficient nominations to fill the vacancies for any unit or constituency are received, the Secretary of Senate shall declare the person or persons nominated elected by acclamation.

12. Except where election is by acclamation, election shall be by secret ballot by those eligible to vote in the constituency concerned.
13. Balloting will be conducted during a designated period at an election site linked to Western's homepage : <http://www.uwo.ca>
14. Where more than one seat is vacant in any constituency, voters may vote for candidates up to the maximum number of seats available. Candidates with the most votes will be the winners and will fill the vacant seats in order of plurality.
15. If in any election there is a tie vote, the election shall be determined by lottery conducted by the Secretary of Senate in the presence of the candidates concerned or their agents.
16. An election shall not be invalidated by any irregularity which does not affect the outcome of such election. Notification of any irregularity must be received by the Secretary of Senate within five business days of the closing of the polls.
17. The results of the election shall be announced as soon as possible after the close of balloting. The number of votes received by each candidate will be made public.
18. All election data will be retained for a period of thirty days following publication of the election results, and then destroyed if no appeal is pending.
19. A list of voting results, validated by the Secretary of Senate, shall be retained for a period of two years.
20. In accordance with the UWO Act, the following pertains with respect to terms for the various constituencies represented on Senate:
 - (a) Faculty, Administrative Staff and Members of the General Community are elected to two-year terms. They may serve two consecutive terms, following which they are not eligible for further election until a lapse of two years.
 - (b) Students are elected to one-year terms. They may serve four consecutive terms, following which they are not eligible for further election until a lapse of two years.
 - (c) When an individual is elected to complete the term of another Senator, that time is not included in the individual's eligibility to serve in his/her own right.
 - (d) Eligibility for re-election to Senate is unaffected by a Leave of Absence taken during a regular membership term. That is, the period of Leave shall not be construed as a break in the continuity of a regular membership term.

A.2 **Elected Representatives – Distribution of Seats**

A.2.1 ***Faculty***

Constituency	Seats
School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (One from each of the following disciplinary groupings: Arts & Humanities/Music; Social Science; FIMS & Business; Education; Health Sciences; Medicine & Dentistry; Engineering; Science. Two from SGPS At-Large)	10
Faculty of Arts & Humanities	5
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry (4 from Medicine; 1 from Dentistry)	5
Faculty of Science	5

Faculty of Social Science	5
Faculty of Health Sciences	4
Faculty of Information and Media Studies	2
Faculty of Education	2
Faculty of Engineering	2
Faculty of Law	2
Don Wright Faculty of Music	2
Richard Ivey School of Business	2
Each Affiliated University College	2

A.2.2 **Administrative Staff**

Two members of the full-time administrative staff elected thereby.

A.2.3 **Students**

Constituency	Seats
<i>Undergraduate Students:</i>	
Faculty of Social Science and FIMS	2
Faculty of Science	1
Faculty of Arts & Humanities and Don Wright Faculty of Music	1
Faculties of Education, Engineering and Law, and the Richard Ivey School of Business	1
Faculty of Health Sciences and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry	2
Affiliated University Colleges	2
At-Large	6
<i>Graduate Students</i>	4

A.3 **Eligibility**

A.3.1 **Faculty**

- (a) To be eligible for election to the Senate, a faculty member (includes those holding Clinical Academic appointments) must be a member, either full-time or part-time, at the rank of Assistant Professor or higher, of the academic unit or constituent parts thereof as designated by the Senate or affiliated university college to be represented, and must have held an academic appointment in the University or affiliated university college for at least two academic years.
- (b) To vote for representatives of constituent university Faculties and Schools, members of faculty of the University must be listed as such in the records of the Division of Human Resources. To vote for faculty representatives of affiliated university colleges, members of the faculty of the colleges must be listed as such in the relevant records of the Affiliated University College in question.
- (c) A member of faculty holding an appointment in more than one academic unit (or constituency within that unit) other than the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies may be nominated only in the unit designated as the "Home Faculty/School". Such a member of faculty is, however, eligible to vote in each academic unit in which he or she is a member.

A.3.2 **Administrative Staff**

All employees of the University in full-time continuing positions who are not members of the faculty, and who are listed as such in the records of the Division of Human Resources, are eligible for election and to vote. A member of full-time administrative staff who is registered as a student is not eligible to vote in the undergraduate or graduate student constituencies.

A.3.3 *Students*

Any full- or part-time student who is registered, at the time of the call for nominations, in one of the academic units comprising the constituency is eligible to be a candidate and to vote in the constituency except that those who are otherwise included in a Faculty or Administrative Staff constituency shall not be eligible to be a candidate for election or vote. In any given Senate election, a student may not be a candidate in more than one constituency.

A.4 Procedures

A.4.1 *Faculty and Staff*

- (a) The Secretary of Senate shall call for nominations, normally within the first three weeks of January each year.
- (b) Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Secretary of Senate not less than seven but not more than 14 consecutive days from the official date of call for nominations. The Secretary of Senate shall then publish official lists of the valid nominations on the Secretariat's website as soon as possible after the close of nominations. The official lists shall be organized by constituency and by last name alphabetically, showing the rank (for faculty), title and academic/administrative unit of each nominee.
- (c) Elections shall be conducted by electronic ballot.
- (d) If at any annual election no nominations are received for a faculty constituency, Senate may appoint a member upon the recommendation of the unit/constituency concerned.
- (e) If at any annual election no nominations are received for the administrative staff constituency, the Secretary of Senate shall issue as soon as possible after the close of nominations a second call for nominations, followed by a by-election. The timeline and procedures for the by-election will be as given in paragraphs (b), (c) and (f) of this section. In the event that a by-election fails to yield a candidate, the seat(s) shall be filled in accordance with the procedures for filling of mid-year vacancies (see section C.7, below).
- (f) The Secretary of Senate shall publish the names of the successful candidates in an official notice of the Senate to be posted at the University Secretariat's Office and on its website, as soon as possible after the close of the balloting. The successful candidates for each unit/constituency shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes in each unit/constituency concerned.

A.4.2 *Students*

- (a) Elections to the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Constituencies are normally timed to run in conjunction with the USC Elections. The Secretary of Senate will normally issue a call for nominations during the second week of classes in January. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Secretary of Senate not less than seven but not more than 14 consecutive days from the official date of call for nominations in the case of undergraduate academic faculty constituencies and graduate student constituencies. In the case of the undergraduate student At Large constituency, the completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Secretary of Senate within 21 consecutive days from the official date of call for nominations.
- (b) If, at any annual election, an undergraduate academic constituency fails to nominate a representative(s), the seat(s) thus unfilled shall be added to the six of the undergraduate "At Large" constituency for that year only and filled at the subsequent "At Large" election.
- (c) If one or more "At Large" seats are not filled, the Senate may appoint the required number of

members upon the recommendation of the University Students' Council.

- (d) If at any annual election insufficient nominations are received for the graduate student constituency, Senate may appoint member(s) to fill vacant seat(s) upon the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Nominating Committee outlined in the procedure for the Filling of Mid-Year Vacancies and Leaves of Absence (see section C.6(c)).
- (e) A mandatory all-candidates meeting will be scheduled for student candidates during the week following the close of nominations. Student nominees who do not attend or have not made arrangements to send an alternate will be disqualified from candidacy. Following the all-candidates meeting, the Secretary of the Senate shall publish a list of valid nominations on the Secretariat's website for each constituency. The official list shall be by last name alphabetically, and show for each candidate the academic program and year of registration as recorded in the official student records of the University or the relevant affiliated university college.
- (f) The Secretary of the Senate may employ the USC Election Committee to supervise campaigning by candidates but any decision that a candidate be disqualified may be appealed to the Secretary of the Senate by 4:00 p.m. of the second working day following the date of the letter notifying the candidate of the Election Committee's decision that the candidate be disqualified. Where there is inconsistency between the policies and procedures stated in USC By-Law #2 and those of the Senate, the policies and procedures of the Senate shall take precedence and the final authority for resolving all disputes in such matters shall rest with the Secretary of the Senate.
- (g) The Secretary of Senate shall publish the names of the successful candidates in an official notice of the Senate to be posted at the University Secretariat's Office and on its website, as soon as possible after the close of the balloting. The successful candidates shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes in each constituency concerned.

B. CONSTITUENCIES: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL COMMUNITY

- 1. Senate membership includes five persons from the general community, one of whom shall be active in or associated with the field of secondary school education, consisting of
 - (a) The President of the Alumni Association of the University or a person designated by the President of the UWAA, and two members of the Association appointed by the Association, and
 - (b) two persons elected by Senate.
- 2. The Senate shall elect the members of a Subcommittee of the Nominating Committee composed of five members of Senate and the Chair of the Nominating Committee, who shall be Chair of the Subcommittee.
- 3. The Subcommittee shall, after receiving advice from such bodies or individuals as it may deem appropriate and in knowledge of the appointments to be made by the Alumni Association, present to Senate the nominees for representatives of the general community.
- 4. Members of the General Community are elected to two-year terms. They may serve two consecutive terms, following which they are not eligible for further election until a lapse of two years.

C. FILLING OF MID-YEAR VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

- 1. Vacancies are created either through resignation or requests for leaves of absence.
- 2. The appointee to fill a vacancy must meet all criteria for Senate membership as defined in the UWO Act and these Procedures.

3. Where a vacancy on the Senate occurs before the term of office for which a person has been appointed or elected has expired,
 - (a) If the vacancy is that of an appointed member, the vacancy may be filled by the same authority which appointed the person whose membership is vacant;
 - (b) If the vacancy is that of an elected member, the Senate in its sole discretion shall determine if the vacancy is to be filled; and
 - (c) A person appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the term of office of the person whose membership is vacant.
4. When a vacancy has been declared in respect of an elected member and if Senate has determined that the vacancy is to be filled, it shall do so by appointing a replacement from among the candidates of that unit/constituency who were unsuccessful in the last election in a priority determined by their plurality in that election.

When no appointment can be made by the above procedures:

5. **Faculty**

Senate may appoint a member upon the recommendation of the unit concerned.

6. **Students**

- (a) In the case of a vacant seat in an undergraduate student constituency, if the vacancy occurs between July 1st and April 30th: (i) where there is no runner up in the constituency from the last election or when the runner(s) up are unable to or unwilling to fill the vacancy, the replacement will be appointed from among the At Large runners up registered in the relevant Faculty in a priority determined by their plurality in that election; (ii) when no appointment can be made by this procedure, the *ad hoc* Nominating Committee will nominate a replacement from the relevant constituency.
- (b) In the undergraduate student constituency, an *ad hoc* Nominating Subcommittee comprised of the undergraduate student Senators and chaired by the Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, shall nominate a replacement to Senate through the Operations/Agenda Committee
- (c) In the graduate student constituency, if the vacancy occurs between July 1st and April 30th of the following year, an *ad hoc* Nominating Subcommittee comprised of the graduate student Senator(s) and to include at least one representative of general graduate students (to be named by the Society of Graduate Students if that group is not represented by a continuing Senator) and MBA students (to be named by the Master of Business Administration Association if that group is not represented by a continuing Senator) and chaired by the Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, shall nominate a representative or a replacement to Senate through the Operations/Agenda Committee.
- (d) If a student vacancy occurs subsequent to April 30th and prior to July 1st of the same year, the Senator-elect in the constituency will be invited by the Secretary of Senate to assume the vacant seat. In the case of undergraduate constituencies where there is more than one Senator-elect, the invitations will be extended to candidates in an order determined by their plurality in that election.

7. **Administrative Staff**

An *ad hoc* Nominating Subcommittee comprised of five members of the administrative staff, appointed by the Senate Nominating Committee and chaired by the Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, shall

nominate a replacement to Senate, through the Operations/Agenda Committee.

8. ***General Community Members Elected by Senate***

The members of the Nominating Subcommittee for Representatives from the General Community shall be reconvened. A replacement shall be nominated to Senate through the Operations/Agenda Committee.