What is the UW-Madison Classified Staff Executive Committee Election?

Frequently Asked Questions

Members of the UW-Madison Classified Staff will have the opportunity to vote in an election to create a shared governance body.

**What does the term ‘shared governance’ mean?**

Shared governance is the set of practices under which university faculty, staff, and students participate in significant decisions concerning the operation of their institutions. It is widely felt that broad participation in the decision-making process increases the individual’s investment in the success of the institution. Shared governance attempts to combine maximum participation in decision making with clear accountability. The UW-System Board of Regents recognizes the right of classified staff members to structure themselves in a manner that they themselves determine, and to select their representatives to participate in institutional governance.

**How is governance different from Union representation?**

Governance is different from union representation, because the governance relationship with the university does not result in a labor contract concerning wages. Instead, governance participation is available for all classified employees and provides a formal way for employees to participate in the development of university policy.

**Why do we need an elected Committee?**

The elections are intended to be a diverse and democratic representation of the staff. This Committee will provide a sense of permanency and transparency. Meetings are conducted in accordance with open meetings and records requirements. A recognized shared governance body adds legitimacy to your voice. If UW Administration has a proposal or wishes to seek the input of classified staff on a particular issue it gives them the venue to direct their inquiry.

**Is this something new?**

Yes, a single elected shared governance body representing all of Classified Staff is new. The Academic Staff and the Faculty already have active shared governance bodies.

**Who gets to vote?**

All permanent members of the UW-Madison classified staff have the opportunity vote. Your employment as a permanent classified staff person at the UW Madison meets the necessary requirement to vote.
**How can I become a candidate?**

During the designated nomination process dates, Sept. 9 to Oct. 3, any permanent classified staff person willing to run must submit their name, title, building location and signature along with one additional name, title signature and work location of a colleague. The vouching signature does not need to be from someone who shares the work location or job title of the candidate, they only need to be another UW-Madison permanent classified staff employee. Nomination papers will be mailed directly to home addresses of the classified staff.

**How many seats will there be?**

There will be nine seats. Seven were created to generate candidates from work groups numbering over 200. In addition, one seat will be dedicated to 2nd or 3rd shift representation, and one seat will be a general ‘at-large’ seat. Regardless of the voters shift, title or UW-Madison workplace location, they will have the option of voting in the contests for each of the nine seats, but may not vote for more than one candidate in each. Candidates who are elected will serve for no less than two years and for no more than three years and this will be determined by the Committee once it is elected.

**When is the election?**

Election ballots will be received by mail at the homes of classified staff on or about Oct. 19th and must be returned to the office or postmarked no later than Oct. 30th

**How can I find out about who is running?**

Once nominations have been closed, candidate profiles will be available online. Paper copies of these documents will be available in the Bascom Hall office, 167A as well as at official designated workplace posting areas.

**What are the do's and don'ts regarding the election and campaigning?**

All information regarding the do’s and don’ts of campaigning is available online at this website, [http://www.vc.wisc.edu/CSAC.html](http://www.vc.wisc.edu/CSAC.html) or on paper in the Bascom Hall office, 167A.

**How are complaints regarding the violation of campaign do's and don'ts dealt with?**

Complaints of this type will be addressed on a case by case basis and will first be examined by the office of the Secretary.

**What will be the penalty for those who are found to have violated campaign do's and don'ts?**

Candidates who are found to have violated do’s and don’ts could be penalized for such violations up to and including the loss of their seat on the Classified Staff Executive Committee.
How will winners in the election be determined?

Ballots will be independently tabulated by the UW-Madison Survey Center. In each of the individual contests for the nine seats on the Executive Committee, the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes will be declared the winner.

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