

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FEDERATION ELECTIONS

Q: Where can I find out how the Federation works and how elections are held?

A: Federation elections are held each year, as specified in the Faculty and Staff Federation of CCP Constitution and By-laws. These documents are available through the Federation Office (BR-63) or on the Web. Point your browser to the following links for the Federation's Constitution (<http://aft2026.org/const.pdf>) and By-Laws (<http://aft2026.org/bylaws.pdf>); also see Election Rules posted for each election on the Federation's web site, <http://aft2026.org/ecentral.html>.

Q: WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE?

A: The 2008-9 Elections Committee members are: Ruth Baker (Chair), Rick Hock, Mark Piazza, James Russock, Kristy Shuda, Balsahib Shinde, Brenton Webber, and Neil Wells. The Elections Committee is appointed by the Representative Council, the principal decision making body of the Federation.

Q: WHAT SHOULD I RECEIVE IN MY ELECTION PACKET?

A: Federation General Election packets contain the following:

- Ballot for General Officers and Bargaining Unit Co-Chairs
- Department Representative Ballot
- Signature Envelope (with the voter's name, Bargaining Unit, and Dept. printed below the signature line)
- Secret Ballot envelope
- Postage-Paid return envelope

Q: WHY DOES THE FEDERATION HOLD ELECTIONS BY SECRET BALLOT?

A: There is a law governing union elections known as the Landrum-Griffin Act that requires union elections to be conducted by secret ballot, so the anonymity of voters and their choices are ensured (see also the FSFCCP Constitution (<http://aft2026.org/const.pdf>) and By-laws (<http://aft2026.org/bylaws.pdf>) for more details).

Q: WHAT IS THE PROPER PROCEDURE FOR VOTING?

A: Election rules are posted online and included in your packet; however, to make sure your ballots are counted, you must do ALL of the following:

- Mark each ballot and place them inside the signature envelope
- Sign the signature envelope
- Place the signature envelope INSIDE the secret ballot envelope (do not sign the secret ballot envelope or this negates the purpose of it!)
- Place the secret ballot envelope inside the return envelope
- Return the envelope by regular mail to the Federation's post office box (do NOT return your envelope to the Federation Office!)

Q: WHAT IF I DON'T RECEIVE A BALLOT?

A: You are entitled to vote in Federation General Elections if you are a dues-paying member in good standing. Ballots are mailed to member's homes; if you don't receive a ballot during the period when balloting is taking place and think you are entitled to one, contact the Federation's Office Manager, Bob Bucher (x8600) ASAP and he will relay your request to the Elections Committee. Be sure that your address information on file with the Federation is current so that you receive a ballot in a timely fashion.

Q: HOW ARE BALLOTS COUNTED IN FEDERATION ELECTIONS?

All ballots in Federation Elections are counted by members of the Faculty and Staff Federation of CCP Elections Committee, who are appointed by the Representative Council.

When ballot counting takes place, a message is sent to Federation members inviting them to witness the proceedings if they wish. At least two members of the Elections Committee are present during ballot counting to ensure that proper procedures are followed.

When counting begins, here is the basic procedure that is followed:

- Each signed signature envelope is validated by comparing the name to a list of valid voters from the Federation's Membership database (current dues-paying members as well as Retirees who pay dues);
- Once it is determined that a voter is eligible to vote, the signature envelope is opened and the secret ballot envelope inside is set aside for later counting (Note: if the secret ballot envelope is signed or the ballots are not within it, the ballots are considered to be invalid (i.e. the votes are not secret) and are NOT counted);
- This process continues until all of the signature envelopes have been validated and secret ballots set aside;
- The secret ballot envelopes are then opened and the votes indicated on the ballots are tallied;

- Results are preliminary until approved by the Representative Council. If a member wishes to challenge the result of balloting, s/he should address those concerns at the next meeting of the Representative Council after the election is held. Once the Representative Council approves the report of the Election Committee, those results are final. The schedule of Representative Council Meetings is available at: <http://aft2026.org/mtgs.html> .