

UC-AFT Policy on Election of Executive Board Officers
January 16, 2021
DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION

Elections for UC-AFT Executive Board officers will be held once every two years, consistent with the terms of office as defined in the UC-AFT Constitution.

To provide adequate time for leadership transitions, elections will take place during the month April and will be concluded at least two months prior to the July 1st start date for terms of office. Voting will remain open for at least seven (7) calendar days.

Elections will be administered by the UC-AFT Nominations Committee with the support of the Executive Director. Each UC-AFT member will be sent a ballot or instructions for casting a valid ballot. Elections will be conducted electronically on a platform to be determined by the Executive Board.

Names and other identifying information will not be connected to voters' ballots. All ballots will contain a complete list of the candidates for any office, seat, or position to be filled. All ballots will contain or link to the candidates' brief biographical information and statements called for in the UC-AFT Constitution.

Elections will be conducted using ranked choice voting, in which voters rank candidates in order of preference. In ranked-choice voting, if a candidate receives more than half of the first choices among votes cast, they win by an outright majority. If there is no majority winner after counting the first choices, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and voters who picked the eliminated candidate as their first choice have their votes count for their second choice. This tallying process repeats until there is one candidate who receives more than half the votes.

On the next working day following the closure of the voting period, the Nominations Committee will obtain the results directly from the voting platform or provider of balloting services. Ballots will be reviewed and results tabulated by the UC-AFT Nominations Committee with the support of the Executive Director.

The UC-AFT Nominations Committee will provide written notice of the election results to the candidates and the membership within two working days following the closure of balloting or by May 1st, whichever is earlier.

In the month immediately prior to the election, at least two candidate forums will be held. The forum will be open to all members, who will be able to join remotely. During the forums, candidates for all offices and seats will deliver statements and answer questions. Additional engagement between candidates and members is encouraged, provided that for all UC-AFT sponsored activities, equal opportunity is provided to all candidates for a given office.

UC-AFT members may not use UC-AFT email accounts, databases, or mailing lists for campaign purposes, unless equal access is provided to all candidates for a given office. A first violation of this policy will result in a reminder and warning. A second violation of this policy will result in loss of access to the UC-AFT email account, database, and/or mailing list until the election is concluded.

Special elections will be conducted in accordance with all of the above policies, except for the requirement that voting be concluded at least two months prior to the start of the term of office.

Nothing in this policy is intended to conflict with the UC-AFT Constitution and by-laws, which take precedence.