

## Brothers, Sheila C.

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**From:** Brown, Roger M.  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2022 10:34 AM  
**To:** Bastin, Sandra S.; Cantrell, Susan C.; Charnigo, Richard J.; Collett, DeShana; Davis, Olivia N.; Duncan, Marilyn J.; Grossman, Robert B.; Tagavi, Kaveh A.; Takenaka, Akiko; Vincent, Leslie H.; Laws, Andrew E.; Raglin, Kiarah A.; York, Ashley K.; Swanson, Hollie; Cramer, Aaron M.  
**Cc:** Brothers, Sheila C.; Silver, Katie  
**Subject:** Important: Election of Senate Council Chair and Vice Chair

Hello Friends,

I am writing in my capacity as SREC Chair.

Sheila, please post a copy of this email to the December 5, 2022 Senate Council agenda. That is when I will oversee the Senate Council's election of the Senate Council Chair and Vice Chair.

I have five important messages.

**One**, the election process for **Senate Council Chair** will begin on Monday, November 14 when I will solicit email nominations from elected faculty senators including the two elected faculty trustees. A draft election timeline is below.

If you are eligible and nominated, I will email you and all other eligible nominees at the same time in the same email as soon as possible after noon on Thursday, November 17. In that email, I will ask you if you are willing to serve if elected. You will have until 5PM the following day (i.e., Friday, November 18) to let me know if you are willing to serve if elected. During this **important time period**, you may indicate your willingness or not using "reply all" to everyone else, or you may email me individually and I will let everyone else know.

Importantly, your willingness to serve may be affected by your knowledge that another person is or is not willing to serve. The above process provides a little more than 24 hours for you all (as a group) to signal to each other your willingness, if desired, in a step-wise fashion and, if desired, to communicate your opinions to each other in whatever way(s) you wish.

This setup is consistent with the idea that you all (as a group) are best able to decide who should be the next Senate Council chair. My role as the election official is, in part, to give you many different opportunities to communicate with each other. The election process ends with formal discussion and voting at the Monday (12/5) Senate Council meeting. However, I'm reminding you now that nothing in the Senate Rules or in these election procedures prohibits you from communicating with your fellow Senate Council members about these elections and/or about your preferences.

**Two**, the ten persons listed immediately below in alphabetical order are eligible to be nominated (including self-nominations) for **Senate Council Chair** ([SR 1.3.1.3.1](#)).

- Sandra Bastin
- Susan Cantrell
- Richard Charnigo
- DeShana Collett
- Olivia Davis

- Marilyn Duncan
- Robert Grossman
- Kaveh Tagavi
- Akiko Takenaka
- Leslie Vincent

NOTE: As per SR 1.3.1.3.1, “All nine of the elected faculty representatives then serving on the Senate Council shall be eligible for election to the position,” as well as the “incumbent Chair, if in his or her first year as Chair, shall also be eligible for reelection.”

**Three**, please note that if only one nominee is willing to serve as **Senate Council Chair**, the election process ends abruptly with that person declared the winner. If more than one eligible nominee is willing to serve, the election process includes formal discussion and a vote, scheduled to occur (see below) at the December 5, 2022 Senate Council meeting.

**Four**, at the same December 5, 2022 Senate Council meeting, members of Senate Council, if present, may nominate (including self-nominations) one or more of the six eligible candidates listed immediately below to be **Senate Council Vice-Chair** ([SR 1.3.1.3.2](#)):

- Sandra Bastin
- Olivia Davis
- Marilyn Duncan
- Robert Grossman
- Kaveh Tagavi
- Akiko Takenaka

**Five**, all voting members of Senate Council are, if present, eligible to vote in the election of **Senate Council Chair** and **Senate Council Vice Chair**. Voting members are the nine elected faculty members and three student members of Senate Council plus the Senate Council Chair if he/she is not one of the nine elected faculty Senate Council members.

As per SR 1.3.1.2, the “voting elected membership [of Senate Council] shall be nine (9) members elected by and from the 94 elected faculty representatives in the University Senate” plus “the two (2) members elected by and from the newly elected student representatives in the University Senate” plus the one (1) President of the Student Government Association. As per SR 1.3.1.3.1 (para 6), “the Senate Council Chair is always a voting member of the Senate Council, within the provisions of *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.” Since the Senate Council Chair does not preside over the election (*ibid* para 2), the need for impartiality by the Chair (e.g., in large assemblies, e.g., with “more than about a dozen board members present) is absent if even relevant (see *RONR* 12th ed. 44:12-13; see also Table A, p. 206 of *RONR In Brief*). The two faculty members of the Board of Trustees, if they are not elected members of the Senate Council, plus the immediate past Senate Council chair shall not vote.

The Senate Council must elect the Chair and Vice Chair by a simple majority.

Please be mindful of these election plans and how your participation may affect the election outcomes.

Thanks!

Roger  
Chair, SREC

CC:  
Sheila Brothers  
Katie Silver

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**ELECTION TIMELINE**  
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The election of the SC Chair must be in December:

*Should more than one nominee be willing to serve if elected, the nominees will be offered an opportunity to provide an up to 200 word election statement, and that statement will be distributed to the elected faculty senators **at least two weeks before the election**. The elected faculty senators will be solicited by email to express their opinions of the nominees to the Senate Council. The Senate Council will consider this feedback **in electing the next Senate Council Chair in the December** preceding the June 1 start date.*

November 14, 2022 (Monday) 8AM

Solicit by email from all elected faculty senators their nominations (and optimal supporting rationales) of eligible SC members for SC chair. First notice.

November 16, 2022 (Wednesday) 8AM

Solicit by email from all elected faculty senators their nominations (and optional supporting rationales) of eligible SC members for SC chair. Second notice.

November 17, 2022 (Friday) noon

Nomination period ends.

November 17, 2022 (Thursday) noon or ASAP afterward

Roger emails all nominees to get their willingness to serve as SC Chair and includes any supporting rationales. Sends all information to all candidates in a single email. Deadline to inform Roger is November 18, 2022 (Friday) at 5PM. Invite nominees to “reply all” with their response or nominees may let Roger know, and he will inform all the other candidates ASAP.

November 18, 2022 (Friday) 5PM

If there is only one nominee who is willing to serve, Roger will announce that person as the new SC Chair via email. If there is more than one candidate that is willing to serve as SC Chair, Roger will email all willing nominees for SC Chair and request a 200-word statement to be due to Roger via email by November 21, 2022 (Monday) at 10AM.

November 21, 2022 (Monday) at noon

Email senators the 200-word statements from the willing nominees and invite senators to “express their opinions of the nominees to the Senate Council.” Must wait two weeks to hold election until December 5, 2022 (Monday) at 3PM. Senators may send their opinions directly to SC, or they may send their opinions to Roger who will de-identify name(s) unless the senator instructs him otherwise. Roger will send these opinions to SC on a rolling basis.

December 5, 2022 (Monday) 3PM

At SC meeting, members elect new SC Chair and Vice Chair. Roger emails results to President and Provost. Roger emails results to Senate and Sheila.

December 12, 2022 (Monday) at 3PM

Recognize the newly elected SC Chair and SC Vice Chair at the Senate meeting.

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**ELECTION PROCESSES**  
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If possible, a paper ballot will be conducted among the members who will write on their ballot the name of the person they want as Senate Council chair and on the back of the ballot write and circle their own name. If a paper ballot does not include the voter's name and distinguish it clearly from the voter's preferred candidate, the ballot will not be counted. For open records purposes, all ballots will be stored at the Senate Council Office. If paper balloting is not possible, roll-call voting will be used.

If there are three or more willing candidates and no candidate receives a majority of the vote on the first ballot, a second ballot will be conducted as follows: If any candidate withdraws after the first ballot, the original procedure will be repeated, or if no candidate withdraws after the first ballot, the second ballot will be conducted through preferential voting to identify the top two candidates.

Under preferential voting, council members will write the names of all remaining candidates on their ballots, along with a numeral (1, 2, 3, etc.) indicating their ranked preference for any number of candidates. If a candidate receives a majority of first-rank votes, that candidate will be the winner. If no candidate receives a majority of first-rank votes, the last place candidate is eliminated and the first-rank votes for that (last place) candidate are redesignated as first-rank votes for that ballot's second-rank candidate. This process of eliminating the last place candidate and redesignating that candidate's first-rank votes is repeated until there are just two candidates. If there is a tie for second place when redesignating the fourth-place candidate's first-rank votes, the second place will be determined by lot.

Once the two finalists are determined by the preferential voting procedure above, the final ballot will be a non-ranked choice between the top two candidates. If in the final ballot between the top two candidates there is a tie, the election official may entertain a motion for a repeat vote for the two candidates on the final ballot. If no motion is made and approved, the Senate Rules (SR 1.3.1.3.1) say that "[i]f the Senate Council is not able to elect the Chair by a simple majority by the end of December, then the elected faculty senators shall elect the Chair by plurality from those nominated through the above process at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting." If this happens, all willing nominees who did not voluntarily withdraw during the earlier process shall be on the ballot that goes to the Senate. The rule also provides that, in the Senate vote, "[i]f there is still a tie, the Chair shall be determined by a random draw."

The same procedure above will be followed in the election of Senate Council Vice Chair.

NOTES: Preferential voting was first approved by the Senate Council at the 27 November 2017 Senate Council meeting. At the December 4, 2017 Senate Council meeting, Al Cross explained that "the SC was governed by state law and the content of individual votes must be identifiable to the public."

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