

SSEC Advisory Council (SAC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Q: What does SAC stand for?

A: SSEC Advisory Council

2. Q: What is the SAC Composition?

A: The SAC is made up of 10 council members, composition is listed below. As elections occur, original composition will be maintained.

- 3 members shall be SSEC staff/faculty who have served in a Principal Investigator role and who have been nominated and elected to the SAC,
- 2 members shall be any eligible SSEC staff who have been nominated and elected to the SAC,
- 1 NOAA staff member shall be appointed by the NOAA ASPB Chief,
- 1 position shall belong to the AOS Graduate Chair,
- 3 members shall be appointed by the SSEC Director

3. Q: What will the SAC do?

A: The SAC will provide advice and information to the Directors, assist in identifying issues, and help formulate approaches that address identified issues. Duties may include provision of guidance on support of unfunded/under-funded projects, spending of SSEC resources and SSEC fee for service activities. The SAC will also provide feedback and advice on SSEC long-term strategy and direction, help prioritize requests for seed, investment, or proposal funding, assist in developing guidelines, protocols, and subcommittees for proposed SSEC initiatives, provide a conduit for communication of announcements, concerns and issues among staff and Directors, and advocate for SSEC staff, including recruitment of future candidates for UW shared governance positions.

4. Q: Who is eligible to nominate and vote in the election?

A: SSEC staff and affiliates with a 5% or higher appointment, and who have been employed at SSEC for at least the past 6 months, shall be able to nominate and vote for eligible individuals to serve on the SAC.

5. Q: Who is eligible to serve on the SAC?

A: SSEC employees with a 50% or higher appointment, who have been employed at SSEC for at least 6 months, shall be eligible to serve on the SAC in one of the (5) SSEC staff council positions noted above.

6. Q: Can current incumbents be re-nominated/re-elected for another term?

A: Yes

7. Q: What is the LAST day I can nominate people for the SAC?

A: July 21, 2026

8. Q: When will the actual voting (election) start for the SAC?

A: August 3, 2026

9. Q: What is the LAST day I can vote in the election?

A: August 7, 2026

10. Q: When does the new term begin for individuals elected (or re-elected) in this election.

A: September 1, 2026

11. Q: What is the time commitment for meetings, if I decide to run for election to the SAC?

A: The SAC will meet with the Directors as needed, and at a minimum biannually, to discuss topics and issues identified by both the SAC and the Directors. Meetings are generally 1-2 hours each in duration.

12. Q: I've been nominated for the SAC. Do I *have* to participate?

A: No. Once the nomination period ends, all eligible nominees will be asked if they want to submit a profile and be listed on the election ballot for the SAC. Even if nominated, you may opt out of being included on the election ballot.

13. Q: If I get elected, how long will I be expected to serve on the SAC?

A: Commitments will generally be three-year terms.

14. Q: I've been nominated and want to be a potential candidate; do I have to submit a profile?

A: Yes. Profiles should be very concise (2-3 sentences) and should describe your work at SSEC and why you would like to serve on the SAC.

15. Q: I am a part-time employee; can I nominate people and vote in the SAC election?

A: Yes. SSEC staff and affiliates with a 5% or higher appointment, and who have been employed at SSEC for at least the past 6 months, shall be able to nominate eligible individuals to serve on the SAC.

16. Q: I am a part-time employee, less than 50% appointment, can I be elected to the SAC?

A: No. SSEC employees need to have a 50% or higher appointment, and must have been employed at SSEC for at least 6 months, to be eligible to serve on the SAC.

17. Q: I'm an Honorary Fellow. Can I vote?

A: No. SSEC staff and affiliates with a 5% or higher appointment, who have been employed at SSEC for at least the past 6 months, can vote in the SAC election.

18. Q: I'm a NOAA employee with a work location at SSEC, can I vote?

A: Yes.

19. Q: I'm a student hourly. Can I vote?

A: No.

20. Q: I'm a Post Doc (Research Associate or Research Intern). Can I be nominated and/or elected for the SAC?

A: Yes

21. Q: I'm a University Staff employee. Can I be nominated and/or elected for the SAC?

A: Yes.

22. Q: I'm a NOAA employee with a work location at SSEC. Can I be nominated and/or elected for the SAC?

A: No. However, one SAC position is reserved for a NOAA employee with a work location at SSEC. This SAC member is appointed by the SSEC Director in collaboration with the NOAA ASPB Chief.

23. Q: Who is considered an "affiliate" of SSEC?

A: Faculty and staff within UW who have served as PI on an award within SSEC during the past 12 months whose home department is not SSEC.

24. Q: Is self-nomination permitted?

A: Yes.

25. Q: What is a PI?

A: An individual who has been granted Principal Investigator (PI) status on an external research award.

26. Q: How do I know if I'm a PI?

A: Please refer to the list of eligible candidates to determine PI status.

27. Q: Can the SSEC Director or the Executive/Associate Directors be nominated or elected to the SAC?

A: No.

28. Q: During the nomination process, can I nominate an individual more than once?

A: Yes. However, nominating the same individual more than one time will not affect the subsequent election. Anyone who receives one or more nominations will be asked to accept or decline their nomination. Those who accept will be included on a ballot in the upcoming election.

29. Q: During the upcoming election, can I vote for an individual more than once?

A: No. You will only be able to cast one vote per candidate and may vote for up to 3 individuals. For the 2026 election, the 3 individuals receiving the most votes, will be elected to the SAC.

(Updated- 7/13/2026)