New WCMS Evote system (WatVote)

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New Evote system (WatVote)

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Overview

- IST has been providing an evote system to the campus for many years – see sample vote below:

Sample Vote

- Enter your vote on the ballot below.
- Cast your ballot by clicking on the "Cast Ballot" button below.
- Provide your WatIAM userid and password (the same as you use to access myHRInfo) when prompted.
- If you require assistance and/or have questions, please contact Lisa Tomalty (ltomalty@uwaterloo.ca).

In accordance with Policy ##, a nominating committee must be formed to select a new Chair of the Zoology Deptment.

Up to three regular faculty members are to be elected by and from the regular faculty members of the department to serve on the Nominating Committee.

As a result of the call for nominations six nominees have been put forward.

You may vote for **3** only.

- ☐ John Smith
- ☐ Fred Brown
- ☐ Jane Smith
- ☐ Rob Blackmore
- ☐ Betty White
- ☐ Decline

[Cast Ballot] [Reset]

Who uses current evote system

- Secretariat
- Faculty Association
- Staff Association
- Some faculties and departments
- Other groups and institutes (e.g. IQC)
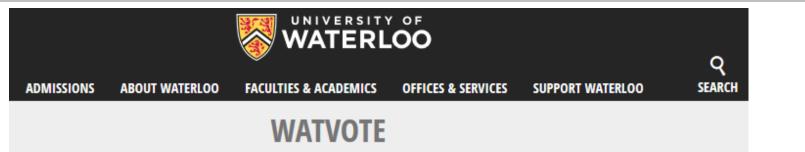
New Evote system (WatVote)

- For policy/referendum/other elections and votes
  - That require authorized authenticated voters and anonymity
- Uses Drupal module called "Election"
  - Maintained in part by creator; an be modified in-house
- Security
  - Passed internal security review
  - Will run on its own server, with limited access
  - Log review process being developed
  - CAS log in, controlled by LDAP groups
- Consultation
  - The Secretariat has been consulted during development and is currently testing
- Types: Referendum style, Election first-past-the-post style

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WatVote-what's new?

- New look....

WATVOTE

CTSC Test Election

View | Candidates

Voting: Open

Positions

CTSC Chair

Number of vacancies: 1

You can vote.

[Vote]

CTSC Secretary (2 vacancies)

Number of vacancies: 2

You can vote.

[Vote]

WatVote –what's new?

- Candidates will be displayed in random order
- All voting information (other than the ballot) must be hosted by the area running the election on their own website
- Election page will be visible to anyone with the URL; only the list of voters will be allowed to vote
- Standard look for votes (less flexibility for layout)
- Future planning:
  - Ability to allow departments to create and run their own votes (initially with the Secretariat)
  - Develop other features as needed

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Why change?

- Current evote system
    - Outdated (designed for legacy web technology/tools)
    - Running on an old OS (Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5) and vendor is dropping support
    - No development team for the service
- New WCMS/Drupal-based evote system
    - Runs on a current OS
    - Maintainable by creator and UW-WCMS team
    - Ability to allow departments to create and run their own votes
        - Initially with the Secretariat, then other areas
        - Efficient
    - In-house WCMS/Drupal expertise for feature requests

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Approximate timing

- December 2016: Testing (Secretariat/IST only)
- Winter 2017: Roll out to Secretariat and other departments as new evotes are requested
- Spring 2017 (or earlier): Shut down old evote system

Other options for online voting

- Other options (for votes that require less anonymity/security)
  - WCMS forms
  - SharePoint surveys
  - Qualtrics (early in 2017)

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Demo

- Test election:
  - https://vote.uwaterloo.ca/election/22
- Test referendum:
  - https://vote.uwaterloo.ca/election/23

WatVote creation process - example

- Prepare web page with voting information including
    - Position/candidate information
    - Instructions on how to vote
    - Link to vote (URL will be provided after 'Request vote' (below) completed)
- Request vote:
    - Submit a request to request vote; include
        - Name of vote/election (or purpose)
        - Positions and candidates OR referendum question(s)
        - List of voters
            - LDAP group will be created to allow them to vote
            - Indicate if a Mailman mail list will needed and if so, what it should be called (to allow email to the group of voters)
            - (If changes are needed, reply to the original request to ask for this; once vote has been opened, changes are not recommended)
        - When the vote/election should open and close

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WatVote creation process - example

- IST staff will
  - Create the vote using specifications
  - Provide
    - Vote URL
    - Mailman list (if requested)
    - Advise and guidance

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Email sent to voters

- Include
  - Web page containing voting information and link to vote itself
  - Open/close dates for vote
  - Other pertinent information

Requests and support

- Email rt@uwaterloo.ca
- Request form will be available soon

Questions?

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