



Orthodox Christian Campus Ministries of SUS

OFFICIAL CAMPUS MINISTRY ORGANIZATION OF
THE COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN U.S.

susoccm.org

OCCM Chapter Leadership Election & Voting Guidelines 2021-2022



Love OCCM?



Have great ideas?



**Have the passion
for ministry?**



**Want to grow as a
leader?**

The group of students in an OCCM Chapter is the nucleus of the OCCM life and ministry on campus. The group is facilitated and guided by a team which includes elected student leaders, a clergy (spiritual) advisor, and a faculty advisor (may not be required at every university).

In an effort to standardize the ministry of OCCM chapters across the Diocese, the Executive Board has developed a standard election and voting process to be used precisely across all OCCM chapters.

We have also outlined the permitted positions which comply with the OCCM Constitution. Some of these positions may vary by chapter due to the size and/or state of the chapter's maturity. Therefore, if the current chapter's committee sees that it does not need a particular officer position, the Committee must consult with the Clergy Advisor to ensure the needs of the Chapter is fulfilled to properly carry out the mission of OCCM. Subsequently, such Chapter must have a designated person to be responsible for that unfilled position so that when the national officers email the university chapters on specific matters (e.g., evangelism), they can email a specific person rather than the Chapter President. See the [FAQ](#) section for an example.

If *unfilled*, the optional officer position can be the responsibility of an existing officer (wearing two hats).

Required Positions

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Optional Positions

- Community Service Coordinator
- Evangelism Coordinator
- Other positions (no more than five total optional officer positions)



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Chapter Structure

Committee (all elected positions)

- Executives: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
- Officers: other positions that the Chapter wishes to have. No more than five.

Nomination Guidelines

1. The nominations shall be on paper or other controlled electronic forms you wish to use.
2. The Regional Clergy Advisor (Fr. Benjamin – Texas; Fr. Daniel – Tennessee; and Fr. Jerome – Florida and Georgia) must approve of all nominations. No exceptions.

Election Guidelines

1. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the officers shall be elected by *simple majority vote* by the members and Clergy/Spiritual Advisor(s) present during the election meeting ONLY. These positions may not be appointed.
2. Voting must be done through a controlled manner such as Google Forms, requiring authenticated log-in of the voter to ensure only one entry per active member (voter). The Chapter President, Chapter Clergy Advisor, Regional Director, and Regional Clergy Advisor shall be the only individuals to access and monitor this data.

Voting Process

- ⇒ The Chapter Committee shall call a meeting of the general members for the purpose of voting on the new committee.
- ⇒ The meeting date for taking nominations and holding elections, as well as the nomination and election process, shall be well publicized to all members at least two weeks in advance.
- ⇒ The Executive Board shall consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- ⇒ The Chapter shall include no more than five (5) additional officers.
- ⇒ The voting process is to be overseen by the Regional Clergy Advisor, Regional Director, Chapter Clergy Advisor, and Chapter President.
- ⇒ Voters may select only one person per position (i.e., voters may not select two different candidates for the same position on the ballot).



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Election Timeline (2021-2022)

Period/Date	Election Task
Week of Monday, March 1	Officers to announce nominations at weekly meeting
Friday, March 19	Last day to submit names for nominations
Week of March 22-26	Regional Clergy Advisors to approve nominees
Week of Monday, April 5	Voting to take place at the OCCM meeting
Friday, April 9	Deadline to submit election results to the OCCM Executive Board

FAQ

How long is the term of the Chapter Committee?

The Chapter Committee shall be a one-year termed office duty (two semesters). The current committee members can only run for two terms (i.e., two years or four semesters) if the person desires to continue serving.

What are the criteria to run for a position?

The election process is open to all interested and qualified OCCM candidates. The qualifications are:

1. Being an active OCCM member; that is, a member who has actively attended meetings and participated in Chapter events and initiatives
2. Being a member for at least a semester
3. Being an active member of one of the six Oriental Orthodox Churches, with regular attendance of the Divine Liturgy
4. Having an active relationship with his/her Father Confessor
5. MANDATORY attendance at OCCM Lead – OCCM’s student leadership training conference (*The plan for OCCM Lead is still to be determined due to COVID-19.*)

What qualities should officers have?

Besides being a genuine model of an Orthodox Christian, an officer ought to be self-motivated, persistent, an active communicator, and has the ability to plan and follow through.



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How does nomination work?

Simply inform your current Chapter officers of the position you want to be nominated for. Your Chapter may also have a self-expression form for the members to complete. Check with your Chapter!

Who can vote?

All registered and active OCCM Chapter members are eligible to vote. In addition, the Chapter Clergy Advisor and the Regional Clergy Advisor may vote if they wish to. The voting member has to have been an OCCM member for at least a semester to participate in the voting process. Non-OCCM members *are not permitted* to participate in the election. If someone votes who is not an OCCM member, the voting process shall be repeated.

What is an “active” member?

Anyone who has attended more than 50% of the meetings during at least one semester.

What if our Chapter is so small and/or it does not have interested candidates to run for student leader positions?

Please contact your Regional Clergy Advisor to discuss this matter and work through it (Fr. Benjamin – Texas; Fr. Daniel – Tennessee; and Fr. Jerome – Florida and Georgia). In the case of struggling chapters or small chapters, the Regional Clergy Advisor may appoint an Executive Board and monitor/evaluate the progress for continuity.

How do we handle unfilled positions?

Example: OCCM of XYZ Chapter does not have a need for an evangelism position, so they want to replace the evangelism officer by a historian officer (i.e., a record keeping person, one that communicates with the national chapter and knows the ins and outs of the rules and bylaws). The Chapter can do so, but, after agreeing with their Clergy Advisor, they must inform the [diocesan] OCCM Executive Board that they have done so and give the name of the person who will handle the evangelism business with the national chapter as a side duty that is added to his/her tasks.

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