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## Online voting introduced for OUSC election

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer For the first time ever, **Oakland University's Student Congress election** will be done online, enabling students to vote at any time from any computer with Internet access.

"We're the first university in Michigan to conduct our elections completely online," said Kelly Lee, OUSC administrative assistant. "This is a great move for us toward online technology. It's great because students can conveniently vote at any time during the election period – even at 3 a.m. from their dorm rooms if they want.

"The voting is all tabulated on a secure system and the results will be available to us within a few hours after the voting period ends. In the past, we'd spend 10 to 11 hours tallying the votes and recounting them all through the night. We were just shy of 1,000 voters last year. This time, we'd like to reach around 2,000 students."

In last year's election, only 5 percent of the total registered student population voted using the paper ballot system. The low turnout represents a trend that has disappointed student leaders for several years.

To gain more student participation in the voting process, OUSC worked with OU's **Information Technology Institute** to eliminate the paper ballots and develop an online voting system.

In this year's elections, which begin Monday, March 25, at noon and conclude on Wednesday, March 27, at 10 p.m., students will cast their votes on the **OU Student Congress Ballot Box** Web page.

All currently registered OU students are eligible to vote and may do so from any computer with Internet access. Students must have their SAIL ID and password to cast their votes.

"The process for voting online is not alienating whatsoever," said Derek Dickow, OU student body president. "As long as you're a registered student, you can vote from anywhere. It can be at the Kresge Library, at the Oakland Center, or from your computer if you're studying abroad in Japan. I'm excited about the potential of this system for OU Student Congress."

Besides being able to cast their votes on the Ballot Box Web page, students can read campaign platforms and view photos of the four OUSC presidential candidates and their running mates. They also can read the platforms of the eight legislative candidates.

For more information on the **OU Student Congress Ballot Box** Web page, contact the OU Student Congress Elections Commission at (248) 370-4290 or [congress@oakland.edu](mailto:congress@oakland.edu).

### SUMMARY

For the first time ever, Oakland University's Student Congress elections will be done online, enabling students to vote at any time from any computer with Internet access.

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