“Autumn approaches in descending darkness leading to LISA.

The year’s end means the term’s end and elections are upon us.”

As LISA approaches this year, the end of the term for the current SAGE Executive Committee is upon us. As the Chair for the 2002 Election Committee it is my job to set the schedule for the elections, make sure that a mechanism is in place for them, and make sure that the Nominating Committee provides a suitable slate of candidates. That said, I think my real job is to make sure people get involved, promote candidates, and VOTE! From elections past most members seem to see this last step, the voting, as an artifact of some pre-historic process that they shouldn’t bother themselves with.

The schedule for elections is laid out in the SAGE policy document; it was newly amended this year for more flexibility. The key policies summarized are: nominations are open for two months before elections, a candidates forum is scheduled for LISA, elections take place a couple of weeks after LISA, eligibility to vote is set based on the election date. Specific to this year, the schedule is:

Nominations open: Sept. 1, 2002
Nominations close: Nov. 22, 2002
Candidates Forum: LISA, Nov. 7th, 8:00 p.m.
Eligibility Date: Nov. 22, 2002
Balloting opens: Dec. 2, 2002
Balloting closes: Dec. 15, 2002
Results announced: As soon as practical following balloting

The mechanism for voting will be on-line voting again this year. For those of you who remember, two years ago was our first attempt at on-line voting and it wasn’t a resounding success. Operating System and browser compatibility requirements mired an alright system. This year we are implementing a system without those limitations. I will be working with the creator of the on-line balloting system to have it donated so that election costs are kept at a minimum.

The Nominating Committee this year is being led by the estimable Cat Okita. Cat will be assembling a committee in the next couple of weeks (after I write this; it should be together by publication) to solicit and generate nominations. Email with suggested nominations or comments to that committee can be sent to exec-nom-com@sage.org.

The SAGE Exec believes in an open election process. So, in addition to the nominating committee the official SAGE policy document also specifies that any five members of SAGE acting together can nominate a candidate. These nominations should be submitted to the SAGE secretary, Trey Harris, by sending email to trey@sage.org.

Candidates will be able to address the membership through SAGEwire, the interactive portion of SAGEweb. Members will be able to address questions for candidates through SAGEwire forums and see the responses in the same. Follow-up comments or questions are encouraged.

I am the chair of the election committee, so any questions about what’s been in here should be addressed to me at andregg@sage.org. That said, don’t forget to VOTE!