

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

The Elections Committee reports to the Executive Committee. Recommendations of the Elections Committee may be approved by the Executive Committee or forwarded to the Governing Council for approval.

Comment [t1]: It is being proposed that the Executive Committee be designated as the parent body of the Elections Committee rather than the University Affairs Board as the *University of Toronto Act, 1971* authorizes the Governing Council itself to "determine the manner and procedure of election of its members..." (Section 2(14)(nb)).

1. MEMBERSHIP

1.1 Composition

	GOVERNING COUNCIL
Administrative Staff	1
Alumni	1
LGIC Appointees	1
Teaching Staff	1
Students	1
<i>Ex Officio</i>	
Chancellor	1
Chairman	1
Vice-Chairman	1
President	1
TOTAL	9

Total membership is 9 members, all of whom must be Governing Council members. There must be one appointed member from each estate of the Governing Council.

1.2 Term

Terms are for one year, beginning July 1, and may be renewed.

1.3 Chair

The Chair shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. ~~University Affairs Board.~~

2. QUORUM

Three members shall constitute a quorum, at least two of whom will not be *ex officio* members.

3. FUNCTION

The Committee is responsible for recommending the policy on elections and for considering the developing detailed guidelines for procedures to be used in the election of ~~teaching staff,~~ administrative staff, ~~and~~ students, and teaching staff to the Governing Council and teaching ~~and~~ librarian staff to the Academic Board. Members of the Committee also serve as the Election Overseers.

4. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

4.1 To review and recommend for approval policy on elections.

~~Specific areas of responsibility of the Elections Committee include:~~

~~4.2~~ To review annually and approve ~~develop~~ any minor amendments to the *Election Guidelines*. The Committee shall forward any proposed major amendments of the Guidelines to the Executive Committee for approval.
~~and to forward them to the University Affairs Board for consideration.~~

~~†The Chief Returning Officer is responsible for the interpretation and implementation of the Election Guidelines.‡~~

~~4.3~~ To serve as the Election Overseers, as specified in the *Election Guidelines*.

4.4 To receive for information an annual report on the elections process from the Chief Returning Officer.

~~4.3 To decide on whether a by-election should be held if a seat on the Governing Council becomes vacant within eight months of the end of the member's term.~~

~~4.4 To provide advice to the Chief Returning Officer on how to proceed in the event that the nomination period has been re-opened twice and no verified nomination papers have been received.~~

5. PROCEDURES

All meetings of the Committee shall be called at the discretion of the Chair. The Committee normally meets in open session but may, pursuant to section 33 of By-Law Number 2, meet in closed session or *in camera* when: (1) matters may be disclosed at the meeting of such a nature, having regard to the circumstances, that the desirability of avoiding open discussion thereof outweighs the desirability of adhering to the principle that meetings be open to the public; or (ii) intimate financial or personal matters of any person may be disclosed at the meeting or part thereof.

Comment [t2]: A policy on elections, which would require Governing Council approval, should be developed. Election principles currently contained in the *Guidelines* could be transferred to such a policy document, allowing for a separation of policy from procedures, as has been the practice of late at the University.

Comment [t3]: This specific duty of the Committee, along with others, is described in the *Guidelines*.

Comment [t4]: Although this responsibility is listed, in practice, the CRO simply takes steps to advertise a vacancy rather than consulting with the Committee about such an administrative matter.

The Committee shall, ~~annually~~from time to time, solicit advice and input from the University community on the ~~policy on elections, the~~ Election Guidelines, and the electoral process ~~for the year~~.

Meetings when the Committee is acting as the Election Overseers **and** deciding on a course of action related to a violation of the *Election Guidelines* shall normally be held *in camera*.

Approved by Governing Council June 27, 2002

Revision approved by Governing Council on December 12, 2005