



Memorandum to: Members of the University Community
Governing Council
Academic Board
Business Board
University Affairs Board
Alumni Council of Presidents
College of Electors
Principals, Deans, Academic Directors and Chairs
Professional/Managerial and Confidential Staff
Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students
Erindale College Student Union operating as University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union
Graduate Students' Union
Scarborough Campus Students' Union
Students' Administrative Council operating as University of Toronto Students' Union
University of Toronto Faculty Association
United Steelworkers of America
University of Toronto Alumni Association

From: Stephen C. Smith, Chair of the Elections Committee

Date: April 17, 2009

Re: **Request for Ideas and Comments on the 2009 Governing Council Election Process**

The Elections Committee of the Governing Council is responsible for developing guidelines for procedures to be used in the election of teaching staff, administrative staff, and students to the Governing Council, and teaching/librarian staff to the Academic Board. Every year, the Committee invites ideas and input from the University community on the Governing Council election process. The Committee welcomes your comments on any element of the election process, but is particularly interested in your responses to the following questions:

- **Would you consider being a candidate in a Governing Council election? If not, why not?**
- **Have you voted in Governing Council elections? If not, why not?**
- **Governing Council student elections have been held online through the Repository of Student Information (ROSI) for a number of years, and online voting for teaching staff and administrative staff was implemented in the 2009 elections. What was your experience in participating in the online election?**
- **Do you have any suggestions as to how to increase the participation rate for Governing Council elections?**

[Please note that non-degree students and students registered in the Toronto School of Theology are ineligible to participate in Governing Council elections.]

The election of alumni governors follows a special process through the College of Electors, a group of members representing the constituent alumni associations of the University of Toronto Alumni Association. The College elects alumni governors and the Chancellor on behalf of all alumni. The Elections Committee also welcomes input on this process.

Please provide your comments by using the online form available on the website below:

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections/comments/survey.htm>

Suggestions will be considered in the preparation of the *Election Guidelines 2010*.

Request for Ideas and Comments on the Governing Council Election Process

Why is Governance Important?

The University of Toronto has assembled one of the strongest research and teaching faculties in North America, presenting top students at all levels with an intellectual environment unmatched in breadth and depth on any other Canadian campus. U of T faculty co-author more research articles than their colleagues at any university in the US or Canada other than Harvard. As a measure of impact, U of T consistently ranks alongside the top five U.S. universities whose discoveries are most often cited by other researchers around the world. The U of T faculty are also widely recognized for their teaching strengths and commitment to graduate supervision. In achieving this record of excellence, the University of Toronto is governed by the Governing Council, which consists of members of the public and alumni, faculty, administrative staff, and students. As trustees, governors make decisions about the University that have both immediate and long-term effects. Trustees are vested with the responsibility of ensuring that future generations inherit a university that continues to be a great centre of learning and scholarship.

All members of the University community are encouraged to become involved in the Governing Council or one of its Boards or Committees. This may be done by encouraging well-qualified individuals to stand as candidates in Governing Council elections, by standing for election yourself, by voting in elections in your constituency, or by applying for the co-opted (non-Governing Council) positions on the Boards and Committee of the Council.

More information is available on the websites below:

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections.htm>
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/bac/ec.htm>
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections/ce.htm>

Dates to Remember:

January 2010:	Nominations open for administrative staff, teaching staff, student, and alumni seats on the Governing Council and teaching/librarian staff seats on the Academic Board.
February - March 2010:	Elections.
March - April 2010:	Call for Nominations for Co-opted seats on the Governing Council Boards and Committees.