

**2010 Governing Council Elections  
Student Candidates' Statements**

Voting Period: Monday, March 1, 2010 at 12:01 a.m. to Friday, March 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Online voting will take place on ROSI ([www.rosi.utoronto.ca](http://www.rosi.utoronto.ca)), and paper ballots will be mailed to post-graduate medical trainees.

**Full-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency I**

**(Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto at Mississauga, University of Toronto at Scarborough)**

**Erik Bracciodieta**

Hi! My name is Erik Bracciodieta. You've probably never heard of me, but don't let that stop you from voting for me. Our university faces funding challenges and this places our student interests at risk. How can we stem the tide of corporate influence and better our university experience? You probably have some ideas and I will listen. By voting for me, you are voting for an open Governing Council that will reduce the bureaucracy and prioritize the needs of the university's largest group: undergrads! After all, don't you want to know how your tuition dollars are used?

**John Button**

My name is John Button, and it is my honour to run for the Governing Council. The University of Toronto is a world-class institution filled with some of the most talented and capable people around. I am to bring a stronger voice to those people, the UofT students. I aim to focus on the issues that matter most to you. I will strive to be one of the most accessible governors yet, and I will bring your concerns on issues like tuition and sustainability to the council. Let us make a change for the better this time.

**Maximilian Cadmus**

Sense of duty and responsibility to U of T are what guide me in my pursuit of office. As assurance of my sincerest intentions; I vow that if you elect me I will NEVER include my service to the governing council on my RESUME. I recognize-and intend to address-the different needs of commuters versus dormers, Canadian versus international students, and other sub-groups of full-time undergraduate studies. Together let us prove that the old UofT fight song "Blue & White" is not mistaken when it declares "Yes! We! Are! Ever loyal, faithful, frank, and strong".

**Milan Ceho**

Milan Ceho is a native Torontonion, and full-time undergraduate student. Before attending the University of Toronto Milan graduated from the Law Clerk Program at Seneca College. Milan's prior education and work experience have given him a great propensity towards administration. It is with utmost sincerity that he pledges to serve his constituency with honour and integrity. Milan is the gallant face of the Millennial Generation. Milan's motivation and creative vision are the hallmarks of our generation. Vote for Milan, define the moment or else the moment will define you! Visit [milanceho.blogspot.com](http://milanceho.blogspot.com)

**Full-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency I (cont'd)**

<p><b>Robert Chu</b>                  As a first-year student, I have already taken courses across several departments, tutored high school students through ASSU, and participated as a representative in the Chemistry Students' Union. I would, if elected to the Governing Council, have the unique advantage of being able to learn about the issues facing undergraduate students and how the Council can help said students by serving early in my undergraduate career and having the opportunity to continue holding that position. In short, I would with your support, be better able to serve on the Council in the future by beginning to serve on it now.</p>	<p><b>Daniel Gatto</b>                  Dear friends, I am proposing to create an option on ROSI for students to opt-into health and dental plans (no need to opt-out and wait months to get your money back), work towards more needs-based grants, oppose unfair fee increases (i.e. flat fees), advocate for ethical investment and a prudent fiscal policy, and promote an environmentally friendly and sustainable university. I will also be regularly engaged in campus media. My experience includes involvement in my college's student government, in the G8 Research Group, and work at Queen's Park. I encourage you to contact me: danielgatto.gc@gmail.com. Let's work together. Website: www.danielgatto.ca.</p>
<p><b>Min Hee Margaret Kim</b>                  Integrity. Passion. Experience. My name is Min Hee Margaret Kim, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student studying Poli-Sci and Ethics, Society &amp; Law. Serving on the GC as your student governor this year has been my privilege and joy. University governance is not easy. There are many issues to grapple with such as tuition fees, student services and academic excellence. However, the key is to have respectful and open communication, being united in the same goal: making our university better. With experience and renewed dedication, I will continue to ensure diverse and strong student representation. Vote Min Hee again!</p>	<p><b>Ron Leung</b>                  As a student who passionately believes in student activism and bettering campus life, I thank you for taking the time to contribute toward shaping your university experience by partaking in this year's Governing Council elections. Listening equally to all three campuses is imperative and as a candidate from UTSC, I promise you that both satellite campuses' concerns and ideas will be voiced. Please feel free express your own addendum towards my proposed platform. And needless to say, please express the changes you would like to see happen within our university that can be affected by my candidacy. Best, Ron Leung</p>
<p><b>Onaizah Onaizah</b>                  As a first-year student and part of the University of Toronto community, I would like to become a member of the Governing Council and represent you (the students) who are perhaps the most vulnerable people on campus. These are the people who are affected by every legislation that's passed, whether it's in the Parliament buildings in Ottawa or at Simcoe Hall on the UofT campus. I am very outspoken about my opinions and I assure that your concerns about the future of UofT will also be my concerns about the future of UofT because we are all in this together.</p>	<p><b>James Yong Kyun Park</b>                  It is my goal to recreate a university experience where student satisfaction is the true measure of the University's success. I'll fight for issues that directly affect the student, such as increasing the accessibility of student services, and raising awareness of and enhancing our rights. I cannot promise to make drastic changes like cutting tuition fees in half or restructuring the GPA system. However, I do believe that student leadership doesn't have to be symbolic, but can achieve practical and demonstrable results with the right representation. Vote James Yong Kyun Park for Governing Council.</p>

**Full-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency I (cont'd)**

**Saad Ahmed Qidwai**  
 Hello my fellow U of T students. My name is Saad Qidwai and I am running to be your representative on the Governing Council. It is a place where people come together to make changes for the betterment of the university and it's students. Having served as a grade representative for 4 years in High school and as Vice Chair of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee of Mississauga gives me valuable experience. I will bring dedication and Hard Work to the table and with your support can help to make our great school even better. Thank You

**Gregory Rebejko**  
 Hello University of Toronto undergrads, my name is Gregory Rebejko. I am a third year student at the St. George campus majoring in History and Political Science. I am heavily involved in student run organizations such as the Model United Nations Society, North American Model United Nations and the G8 Research Group. It will be my goal as your next voice on the governing council to ensure that students concerns are heard and dealt with in a transparent and effective manner. Your education is important and so are your concerns. Be heard, get more, vote Gregory Rebejko.

**Tharsini Sivananthajothy**  
 Tharsini Sivananthajothy, a second year student in Coop Specialist Cell and Molecular Biology at UTSC, has been involved on campus since first year with the Scarborough Campus Students' Union's (SCSU) Standing Committee on Students & Equity, and Academics. Elected as the Biological Sciences Director on the SCSU for 09/10, her presence is also felt on campus through events as the Events' Coordinator for UTSC TSA and VP Sciences for the Coop Students' Association. She believes experience and passion will allow her to give back to the students. "Great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position."  
 JM

**Full-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency II (Professional Faculties)**

<p><b>Adam Heller</b>                  My name is Adam Heller and I am the incumbent candidate. I wish to continue as your representative for another term. I am a student at the Faculty of Law, and have applied my academic and work experience towards representing you with the utmost diligence. This term I served on the Academic Appeals Committee, Academic Board, University Affairs Board, and was invited to sit on the Tribunal Selection Committee. With your blessing I will continue to represent you and strive to improve the University of Toronto.</p>	<p><b>Ken Kuran</b> <a href="http://www.kenkuran.com">www.kenkuran.com</a>                  I am an Engineering Student with lots of experience in “Skule” Politics. I am the Treasurer of the Mechanical Engineering Club, and the Founder and President of the Yoga Club. I was the Chief Sales Officer for the Engineering Career Fair and part of the Innis College Student Society. I believe that all students should be equal at University of Toronto; meaning that engineers and other professional students should be allowed equal access to Electives, Residences, and Colleges. Furthermore, university should not bankrupt students; by balancing the books of the University, capping and re-regulating tuition is possible.</p>
<p><b>Natalie Melton</b>                  As your student representative I will make a specific focus on increasing student financial support, lobbying governments for increased funding, and secure the existence of accessible academic, financial, personal, and career counselling. Drawing upon my past experience in healthcare, publishing, and community work, I will be an accountable and strong voice for professional students. We are an integral part of the university, and I will advocate for our rights and needs at all levels of university governance. I commit to providing strong representation for professional students and I ask that you cast your vote for ‘Natalie Melton’.  <a href="http://www.nataliemelton.info">www.nataliemelton.info</a></p>	<p><b>Manveen Puri</b>                  Manveen Puri: It is difficult not to be awed by UofT, be it by its rich history, or its promise of excellence. With its decentralized collegiate structure, good central governance is vital to UofT’s continued success. Two questions remain: Why me? I have been active with student organizations throughout my four undergraduate years at UofT. Why now? With my added perspective from first-year medicine, I have realized how we students can leverage our numbers to impact key decisions. I assure you that I will keep the interests of my constituents in mind and exercise my best judgment on each vote.</p>
<p><b>Steven Sovran</b>                  With experience in three different university faculties at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels, I am able to bring a rare and valuable perspective to the Governing Council derived from an understanding of the entirety of the student body. As a medical resident and former medical student, I would promote the interests of my constituency particularly effectively, being well aware of the needs of professional students. I would be guided by a belief in academic freedom and honesty, institutional integrity, and the need to continuously improve the university to better serve students, teachers and the community at large.</p>	<p><b>Michael Wang</b>                  First Year Engineering Science                  In my high school, I was a co-president of the inaugural Student Activities Council and I was also a vice-president of the Student Athletic Council for two years. In addition, I also earned my high school’s Governor General Academic Medal while participating in numerous sports teams throughout the years (i.e. volleyball, badminton, and tennis).                  Vote me into the Governing Council and I will make a positive impact in all aspects of UofT with my varied background. I will sustain our strengths and improves our imperfections.</p>

**Part-Time Undergraduate Students**

**Ken Davy**  
I am a fourth year undergraduate student (Woodsworth College) in the History Specialist program at the University of Toronto. I have represented part-time students on the Governing Council of the University since 2007, and am seeking re-election. I have used the valuable knowledge and experience I gained from memberships on various boards and committees, as well as the Governing Council, to voice the concerns of part-time students, such as student financial aid and course availability. I am honoured to contribute an experienced voice to Council Chambers and represent the interests of part-time students. Please re-elect me. Thank you.

**Joeita Gupta**  
Joeita Gupta seeking re-election to GC! I self-identify with the need for and will continue to call for greater supports for part-time study; including lower fees/financial aid, access for students with disabilities, affordable housing and childcare, increased evening classes, reforms to appeals process, increased student involvement and community for PT students. I've advocated for social justice issues through community radio, anti-poverty groups, the Centre for Women and Trans people, as a member of the part-time union, as a member of the Academic Board, and University Affairs Board. I'm passionate, hard-working, articulate, and determined to collectively affect change!  
[Joeitaforgc.blogspot.com](http://Joeitaforgc.blogspot.com)

**Jeff Peters**  
I am the president of APUS. I am a past governor (2008-2009). I am an advocate of students fighting for lowering tuition, access, and equity. I voted against flat fees, tuition increases, and Towards 2030 framework. I have years of experience advocating for part-time students. I have been a disability rights and anti-poverty activist for the past 18 years. I will work hard to be a strong voice for part-time students to lower tuition, increase accessibility, promote affordable on-campus childcare, evening classes and access to affordable housing for part-time students. Vote Jeff Peters!  
[Jeff.peters@utoronto.ca](mailto:Jeff.peters@utoronto.ca)

**Graduate Students, Constituency I (Humanities and Social Sciences)**

**Craig Mackie**

I have a BA (U of Alberta) in Psychology and an MA (U of Ottawa) in Philosophy. As a graduate student in Social Work I believe the U of T has a responsibility to its students as well as the broader community to reflect and influence society as a whole. Our education needs to be dynamic, far seeing, and responsible economically, environmentally and socially. Bringing a range of experience in student politics, social activism and organizational change I will represent the students of the U of T with humility and an aspiration to uphold the highest possible standard of education.

**Olivier K. Sorin**

As your representative on Governing Council, I will continue to push the University to upgrade its academic infrastructure for graduate students (the number of professors in departments, accessible resources, space and equipment, and better email services). I will also press for an increase in the funding package so that students in humanities and social sciences can be on equal footing with their colleagues in divisions 3 and 4. Furthermore, I will ensure that there are more services and campus space for graduate students to help us interact and learn outside of the classroom. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Robert Spencer**

I am working towards a PhD in OISE Curriculum Department and have previously earned a Masters Degree in Comparative International Education and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics My experience includes: Chair of Toronto Board of Education, Research Coordinator, Ontario Fair Tax Commission, member of the Governing Council and Executive Director for the Ontario Association of Food Banks. I support the efforts of students to access quality affordable education. I will advocate an improvement in provincial education funding I want to strive for an ecologically sustainable campus and programs to improve social justice.

**Grace Karram Stephenson**

Grace Karram Stephenson has worked with university programs both internationally (USA, Fiji Islands) and in Canada. She has worked alongside students, faculty and administration to refine admissions processes, assess degree programs and negotiate institutional partnerships. Presently, Grace is enrolled in the MA in Higher Education program at OISE/UT, adding formal knowledge to her practical experience. As a full-time graduate student, Grace understands your position and your importance to the research and teaching of the university. Grace is the experienced and effective choice to represent graduate students on the governing council.

**Graduate Students, Constituency II (Physical Sciences and Life Sciences)**

**Sepehr Ehsani**

I joined the University of Toronto in 2004 and completed my undergraduate degree in laboratory medicine and pathobiology. I am currently a Ph.D. student working on neurodegenerative diseases. Although we as graduate students may be focusing on areas that would concern us mainly with certain aspects of the university, I believe that the broader performance of U of T would nevertheless be essential to us all, both now and in the near future. I hope that with your support, I will be able to express the concerns and perspectives of graduate students at the Governing Council. Thank you.

**Greg West**

As your student representative I will continue to work with students, the university administration, and organizations such as the GSU and CUPE3902 on issues affecting our academic and financial conditions. Graduate students are integral to the university and require strong representation; in lobbying governments for adequate investment in research infrastructure and financial student support, in ensuring the responsible stewardship of the university's budget - comprised largely from tuition fees, and in academic issues surrounding intellectual property and copyright. I commit to continue being a strong voice for graduate students and ask that you cast your vote for 'Greg West':  
[www.gregwest.ca](http://www.gregwest.ca)

Questions about the Governing Council elections process may be directed to the Chief Returning Officer, Mr. Anwar Kazimi (416-978-8427; [anwar.kazimi@utoronto.ca](mailto:anwar.kazimi@utoronto.ca)), or the Deputy Returning Officer, Ms Mae-Yu Tan (416-978-8794; [maeyu.tan@utoronto.ca](mailto:maeyu.tan@utoronto.ca)).