



**2016 Governing Council Elections  
Student Candidates' Statements**

Voting Period: Monday, February 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday, Friday February 19, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.  
Online voting will take place on U-elecT at [voting.utoronto.ca](http://voting.utoronto.ca)

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

**Alla Babushkina**

I am in my 6th year of a Ph.D. program at the Centre for Medieval Studies, and I have been involved in representing the members of my department to CUPE 3902 as a steward for the past three years. I'm deeply troubled by the financial position we find ourselves in as graduate students and workers when cost of living goes up every year while our funding does not keep up with inflation. If elected, I will use my voice and position to question this status quo at every opportunity. This February, please vote Alla as your Constituency I candidate. [www.facebook.com/alla4gc](http://www.facebook.com/alla4gc)

**Elizabeth R. Bernath**

Elizabeth Bernath studies in the School of Graduate Studies I-II, and aims to represent divisional constituents from her previous experience in university leadership. At present, she holds the position of Vice-President, Graduate Student Caucus, Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English. In this capacity, she liaises with graduate association representatives and administrators in each department of English in Canada. As well, for five years, she has served as President, Tenants' Executive, for the University of Toronto, St. George, Charles Street family residence, representing over 700 households, and serving as a member of the Student Family Housing Advisory Board.

<p><b>Gabriel Boulianne Gobeil</b></p> <p>Academically, Political Science doctoral student Gabriel Boulianne Gobeil explores the ramifications of artificial intelligence on war, seeking to understand how new technologies can be regulated to benefit actors besides states. Gabriel's community leadership has been demonstrated as Chief Steward Francophone for the uOttawa Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 2626; steward for UofT CUPE 3902; and volunteer in the 2015 Canadian federal election. Gabriel reflects judiciously and distinctly on important matters, as he would on those of concern falling within the fiduciary jurisdiction of the Governing Council. As a Graduate Student Member, he will contribute to good governance at UofT.  <a href="http://bit.ly/1Pf3SUb">http://bit.ly/1Pf3SUb</a></p>	<p><b>Christopher Cully</b></p> <p>As a Master's student in the Department of Social Justice Education at OISE, I have successfully worked to build community among students, faculty and staff to ensure strong student representation in governance processes. As a student representative on the Graduate Education Council of OISE, I have advocated for the inclusion of a diversity of student voices and perspectives. As your Governor, I will bring together my experiences as a secondary school educator in History, English and Indigenous Studies, and as a graduate student representative to contribute to building a supportive and constructive educational environment at the University of Toronto.</p>
<p><b>Alex Nyikos</b></p> <p>My main priority as a member of the Governing Council would be to make the body more visible and accessible to students of all backgrounds. It has a huge potential to deliver for us, and could benefit from wider involvement. I support divestment from fossil fuels, and feel that the university can and should adopt more tangible policies to reduce its carbon footprint and promote sustainability on campus. As an undergraduate at New York University Abu Dhabi, I served as Treasurer and Vice President of the student body, and accomplished major curriculum changes and student life improvements in those positions.</p>	<p><b>Annastasia Oraegbunem</b></p> <p>Annastasia Oraegbunem is a Virgo-born three years earlier in 1990's, an energetic mother of three children whilst holding a Bachelor of Science in Education – Biology from the University of Nigeria Nsukka in ninth year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century with over three years' experience in teaching. Participated as a Registrar for the Mothers' Day campaign for Breast Cancer Society of Canada, in 2015. Currently enrolled in a Master of Education, Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Toronto. Thus, got involved in LHAE-Departmental Student Association executives and Graduate Student Research Conference Planning Committee for 2016. For more about me click <a href="https://twitter.com/IamAnydos">https://twitter.com/IamAnydos</a></p>

**Bogdan Smarandache**

My name is Bogdan Smarandache and I am a PhD student at the Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS). I am currently serving a third term as student representative for Division I on the Graduate Education Council of SGS and have served as president and secretary of the student committees at CMS. I offer the Governing Council my perspectives on policy and higher education at UofT as informed by my understanding of issues affecting graduate student life, including the effects of the rapid expansion of graduate studies in Ontario and the working conditions and financial pressures faced by student workers.