

**2019 Governing Council Elections  
Student Candidates' Statements**

Voting Period: Monday, February 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday, February 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.  
Online voting will take place on U-elecT at [voting.utoronto.ca](http://voting.utoronto.ca)

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

**Apefa Adjivon**

Apefa is pursuing a double major in Diaspora & Transnational Studies and Women & Gender Studies. She has held leadership positions in various on-campus groups, including Public Relations Officer of the Black Student's Association and Equity Co-Chair for Victoria University's Students Administrative Council. Off-campus, she has advocated for equity within several organizations, including the United Nations and Toronto City Hall, whilst founding a woman's organization herself. As an active member of the U of T and Toronto communities, and a marginalized student herself, Apefa looks forward to sharing honest reflections on students' experiences and equity needs with the governing council.

**Bakiza Al Khalili**

During my time as a student ambassador, I became very passionate about UofT and the education, services and environment it provides to its students. If elected, I would strive to be a strong student representative on the council, focusing on our shared beliefs, specifically in supporting mental health initiatives and an accessible education, while keeping the university's best interests in mind. As a supporter for a green environment, I would also strongly support policies that would benefit the environment and move us forward to an even greener campus. Together, I believe we can guide UofT to its boundless potential. URL: [www.voteforbakiza.ca](http://www.voteforbakiza.ca)

**2019 Governing Council Election  
Full-Time Undergraduate Students – Constituency I (Candidate Statements)**

<p><b>Varda Anwar</b> Hello! I am currently enrolled in my third year and am majoring in Political Science and Criminology. I believe I can bring a unique perspective to the governing council. While the council has done a great job, there is no better way to bring change than to include voices like mine. I am an open ear to any and all who want their voices heard, that they may have felt, were not heard previously. As next year is my last year, I want to be able to have a positive, meaningful impact on the school and its constituents. Thank you.</p>	<p><b>Farid Babayev</b> Dear fellow students, since the first day of university life I have set a goal to become the leader of student society in University of Toronto- to improve minor details as well as resolve devastating issues. My focus is on keeping the main thing the main thing: direct communication with students, understanding their concerns and resolving them as soon as possible. During 2019, I would like to concentrate on issues such as Breadth Requirements (many students tend to refuse to do their dream minor because the courses do not fulfill their BR) and lack of Co-Op on St. George campus.</p>
<p><b>Juliano Baggieri</b> As someone currently serving as an executive member of CleanSMC at St. Michael's College, and who actively participates in university events, I recognize the heightened responsibility that coincides with representing the student body in Governing Council and the importance of listening to student needs. I am driven to be the voice for all student concerns at the University of Toronto, all the while upholding my personal standard of honesty, integrity, transparency, and passion. I hope to provide students with the best university experience possible, as I intend to speak for a unified student body with your support.</p>	<p><b>Ciprian Eduard Bangu</b> My name is Ciprian Bangu, but my friends call me Chippy. I am a 2nd year Philosophy and Political Science major. I was born in Romania, but have lived in Canada and Norway most of my life. I am running for Governing Council to ensure that the voice of the students is emphatically represented in the governing body who's decisions affect both their academic, and day-to-day lives. If elected, I will channel the experience that I have gained representing the student body throughout high school, and employ the analytical skills gained from my field of study, to accomplish this goal.</p>

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<p><b>Ethan Bryant</b> The students of University of Toronto Mississauga deserve a strong voice for student welfare and progress at the governing council. I will fight for better mental health services and be a strong voice against the recent destructive mental health policies that our university administration implemented, against the will of their students. I will push for more co-op opportunities at UTM and more diverse programs and classes so that students who study here have every opportunity to excel. If elected I will be a loud, passionate voice for the well-being and success of UTM students.</p>	<p><b>Pui Chi (Clare) Chan</b> As a 2nd year Life Science student, I am running as your undergraduate student representative on the Governing Council. I consider leadership and perseverance as paramount to any tasks being implemented. With my previous leadership experiences at New College as a House Representative, at the Faculty of Arts and Science as an Undergraduate Science Curriculum Committee member and a Student Ambassador at U of T, I hope to create an embracing study environment for you and turn your opinions into notable changes. To make that happen, I humbly ask for your warm support. Please vote for me! Thank you!</p>
<p><b>Andrea Chiappetta</b> Hello, friends of UofT! My name is Andrea Chiappetta. I am majoring in Political Science here at the St. George Campus and hope to earn your vote for Governing Council. Since my first year, I have made student voice my priority. I am ready to be your voice on the council after serving on the Faculty of Arts and Science Council, and representing you on the Academic Board. I have not stopped working for my fellow peers, and will not stop now. Vote Andrea!</p>	<p><b>Xiaoyi Du</b> Xiaoyi is a third-year international student from China, currently studying at Computer Science Program. She will work on those goals: Against any form of tuition rise; Provide extension for students when several school work deadlines coming together; School should pay more consideration on international student's significant festivals, such as Chinese New Year; Helping students to find real study group in either courses. Please Vote for Xiaoyi, and voting for those goals!</p>

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<p><b>Adam Gomes</b> I am a third-year student at St. Michael's College studying neuroscience, pharmacology and Portuguese. I have held various leadership positions in the past and am currently the undergraduate student representative on the Advisory Committee for the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences. In this capacity, I work directly with various senior university administrators to select a successor for Dean Cameron. I am seeking a Governing Council position to continue being an active member of university governance and to aid in directing the university's future growth through input of various ideas from the undergraduate population. I can be reached at <a href="mailto:adamdc.gomes@mail.utoronto.ca">adamdc.gomes@mail.utoronto.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Yining(Elin) Gu</b> Vote for Yining Gu! I am a second-year student in UTSC, I want to represent you in the Governing Council. Since I am in the special role of representing both the diversity of UTSC campus and international students' group, so I can especially speak out for these special students. During the days in my governing council, I will try my best to help to accommodate what students want in our university, such as more delicious and healthier food in the campus, more opportunities in research. Please vote for these changes to the students' life which I personally care the most.</p>
<p><b>Alim P. Gurler</b> UofT is known as the best post-secondary institution in Canada. Yet, many students battle mental health problems such as depression, and anxiety daily. Even though we have extraordinary services in campus to help fight such mental health issues, I believe that we still have a long way to go before every student is healthy. I hope to take part in helping to achieve that. It's my opinion that UofT should invest more resources into student life by organizing events such as concerts and shows just as other universities across Canada do and I aspire to turn these opinions into reality.</p>	<p><b>Jaanikah Kaneshakumar</b> Hello! My name is Jaanikah Kaneshakumar and I am running for the position of a student member registered in the Faculty of Arts and Science. I recognize this position in the Governing Council is a valuable means of being a part of a team that is involved in improving the academic endeavour and long-term university life of students. I hope to work collectively with the administration of the university to encourage decisions that work in the best interest of the student body to support a successful year. I would appreciate your vote for me to serve on the Governing Council.</p>

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<p><b>Tselmuun Khaliun</b> Dear friends, it is important that, as we pursue academic excellence, we stay true to our values and advocate for diversity, inclusion, equity, environmental friendliness, harsher policies toward sexual violence and affordable tuition, transportation and housing for all students including local and international students. Moreover, it is important that the university continue to support students’ mental health. If you agree with any of my visions, vote for me and I will represent you for the best of my abilities. Having held executive roles at different student organizations and been socially active, I am well equipped for leadership and cooperation role!</p>	<p><b>Bryan Liceralde</b> My name's Bryan Liceralde, and I'm a responsible, enthusiastic student who'll commit himself to make the university a more international institution like Yale, Oxford and Cambridge. I'll advocate for more specialized programs so that students can just earn a degree in the subfield of their main academic disciplines. Moreover, I'll fight for the deregulation of academic rules through abolishing the science and humanities breadth requirements that students must meet. I'll also advocate for international students' rights to pay domestic tuition fees. Finally, I'll push for new study abroad programs with Harvard, Yale, Oxford and Cambridge.</p>
<p><b>Prahalad Ravi</b> Forward - that is the ultimate growth goal. Be it for the betterment of the overall student academic experience or the overseeing of the business aspects of the University, working alongside senior members of the council and providing my insights is an opportunity for a growth in unison between ourselves as members of the community. As a Rotman Commerce student, academic, budget and multi-year resource allocation planning are key traits that I hope to attain and administer as a potential embodiment of Constituency I, Undergraduate Student population at UofT.</p>	<p><b>Annie Sahagian</b> As a current student representative of all 14,000 UTSC full-time undergraduate students on the UTSC Campus Council and its standing committees, I have been involved in making decisions and discussing important issues facing students and the university administration. Furthermore, I have been involved in many on-campus associations such as the Biological Students’ Association and worked in many departments both at UTSC and UTSG such as Convocation Hall, School of Continuing Studies, UTSC Office of Registrar and the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union. I believe that the skills that I acquired through my undergraduate experience will allow me to represent UTSC effectively.</p>

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**Ramtin Taramsari**

As a fellow student, community member, and young adult, I greatly value and am actively involved with extra-curricular activities. I hope to bring my many advantageous qualities and experiences to the “Full-Time Undergraduate Student” position, and in doing so will tirelessly strive to better the experience of those whom I will represent. Through rigor and passion, I promise to serve the undergraduate student population of our university with the utmost level of respect and confidence. Above all else, I cannot wait to have the opportunity to engage in student affairs, activities, and events with you all. Thank you!

**Vishar Yaghoubian**

As a member of the community at the University of Toronto, I intend to represent YOUR VOICE. I have held roles in student leadership and community building for seven years, including President of the Mental Health Committee, student advocate for four NGO’S, and community developer in Ecuador. My goal as a member of the government council at U of T is to ensure that student wishes are HEARD and mobilized into prompt ACTION. The U of T student experience should live up to the international reputation of our school, including mental health supports and value for our tuition dollars.

**Runqun (Helen) Zheng**

As a student currently studying both the sciences and the humanities, and who currently serves as a 1st year voting member for the Arts and Science Council, I believe that I will accurately represent everyone as a member of the Governing Council. If elected, I guarantee to bring my enthusiasm, knowledge, and my smile to every single meeting to ensure that YOU have the best experience at the University of Toronto. I hope that every student here can have a top-notch education while having the time of their lives! Vote for Runqun (Helen) Zheng!