



# University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

TO: Elections Committee

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DATE: September 10 for September 17

AGENDA ITEM: #3

## ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Change in Definition of Part-Time Undergraduate Student for Purposes of By-Election, Fall 2003

## JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Elections Committee is responsible for reviewing and developing Election Guidelines and forwarding them to the University Affairs Board.

## BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Section 2 (2) (e) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971 states that the composition of the Governing Council shall include eight students "...two of whom shall be elected by and from among the part-time undergraduate students".

In May 2003, the Faculty of Arts and Science on the St. George campus, and the University of Toronto at Mississauga changed their divisional definition of part-time student from a student taking less than 4 full-course equivalents, to a student taking less than 3 full course equivalents. The University of Toronto at Scarborough adopted a trimester system at that same time, and changed the definition of full-time student to a student taking 1.5 or more full course equivalents in any semester.

The definition of part-time student in the *Election Guidelines 2003*, approved by the University Affairs Board in November 2002, is: *all students (except students registered in the Toronto School of Theology) registered at the University in a program of part-time study leading to a degree or post-secondary diploma or certificate of the University or in a program designated by the Governing Council as a program of post-secondary study at the University who are not registered in the School of Graduate Studies. All students in Arts and Science on the St. George campus, at the University of Toronto at Mississauga and at the University of Toronto at Scarborough will be considered part-time if enrolled in fewer than four full-course equivalents over any two terms in an academic session (including the previous summer session).*

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Mr. Mohammed Hashim, who was elected as a part-time student governor in March 2003, resigned from the Governing Council effective September 9, 2003. Chapter VI (i) of the *Election Guidelines 2003* requires that 'By-elections shall take place automatically unless the vacancy occurs within eight months of the end of a member's term'. Chapter III (2) states that *In the*

*event of any conflict between these Guidelines and the provisions of the University of Toronto Act, 1971, as amended, the provisions of the Act prevail.*

In order to meet the requirement of the *Act*, that part-time undergraduate student members of the Governing Council shall be elected by and from among the part-time undergraduate students, and the requirement of Chapter IV (a) of the *Election Guidelines 2003*, that student members of the Governing Council be registered between September and May in the constituency in which they hold their seat, it is necessary to amend the *Election Guidelines 2003* for the purposes of this by-election, to amend the definition of part-time undergraduate students to reflect the academic division's definition of part time.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

N/a

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Elections Committee recommend to the University Affairs Board

THAT, for the purposes of the Fall 2003 by-elections for the Governing Council, the status of an undergraduate student as full-time or part-time will be determined by the definition used in the student's academic division.