



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

To: Members of the Elections Committee

From: Paul Holmes, Chief Returning Officer

Date: October 12, 2004

Re: Election Guidelines 2005

Attached are the draft *Election Guidelines 2005*, with the changes identified. The proposed revisions take into account the suggestions contained in the submissions received by the Elections Committee and the presentations made at the open meeting on October 4, as well as changes resulting from recently approved policies, and from experience with the current *Guidelines*.

The proposed substantive revisions to the *Election Guidelines 2005* are as follows:

- Page 4: Deletion of the reference to “Arm’s length party”. The term is not used anywhere in the Guidelines.
- Page 4: substituting the term “Associated Party” in the place of “Non-arm’s length Party”. The proposed change is simpler and more appropriate.
- Page 12: the voting period for the student elections has been set for Feb. 28 – March 4. This has been coordinated with SAC. The campaign period has been reduced to one week from two.
- Page 13: addition of section 2(3a) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971 to provide greater clarity on the rules governing candidates eligible to run in more than one constituency.
- Page 15: addition of clause to permit the use of web addresses on candidate statement that appear on ROSI. At this time I am waiting to hear back from the ROSI administrators as to whether or not it is possible to include an address that will not atomically hotlink when entered.
- Page 15: deletion of the section dealing with “Verification listings”. The “verification lists” are listings by constituency of all eligible voters. In the past the printed lists have included personal information such as student number and address. The University is under an obligation to keep this information confidential. Considerable administrative effort is required to produce the lists, however demand has historically been low for the lists.
- Page 19: deletion of the section entitled “Voter’s mailing labels”. The University is under an obligation to keep the names and addresses of eligible voters confidential. Considerable administrative effort is required to produce the mailing labels.
- Page 19: reference to section 2(nb) of the University of Toronto, Act, 1971, has been added to the section on balloting. The reference makes it clear eligible voters may only vote once.
- Page 20: reference to section 2(3a) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971. The addition is designed to restrict candidates to vote in the constituency in which they are running as a candidate.
- Page 21: deletion of the section entitled “Ballot mailing lists”. The University can no longer distribute this information due to privacy concerns.
- Page 22: reduction of the period within which a request for a written request for a recount may be submitted from 14 days to 7. The purpose is to ensure that recounts, if any, are conducted prior to the announcement of the winners.
- Page 25: substitution of “announcement of candidates” for “start of the campaign period”. A request was made to extend the period in which a candidate could incur election-related

expenses to cover the period 30 days prior to start of the campaign period. The proposed revision would extend eligible expenses to cover those incurred prior to the campaign period but after the official announcement of the candidates

A Proposal was made to have ROSI available 24 hours per day during the voting period. Presently, ROSI is not available between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m. I have contacted the ROSI administrators and been advised that ROSI is not available between midnight and 6:00 a.m. to permit the University the opportunity to run large batch programs critical to the daily function of the University. For example, bank payments are made electronically during this period, as well as a host of other critical administrative functions. I have been advised that the University does not presently have the capacity to operate ROSI on a 24-hour basis *and* run these critical daily functions. In order to do so, greater computing capacity would have to be acquired.

I would be happy to provide additional information on any of the proposed changes. I would also welcome suggestions from the Committee on any additional changes that they wish to consider.

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