



TO: Members of the Executive Committee

SPONSOR: President David Naylor, on behalf of the Ceremonials Committee comprising, Chancellor David Peterson, Professor Michael Marrus, Chair, Academic Board, and Mr. Louis Charpentier, Secretary of the Governing Council.

DATE: March 16, 2009 for April 6, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Policy Revision - *Policy on Presiding Officers for Convocation*

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, section 5(3) provides for delegation in the absence of the Chancellor from a convocation ceremony, stating that in such instances, “the President shall confer degrees but if he is absent or unable to act, degrees shall be conferred by such person as the Governing Council may designate.”

BACKGROUND:

The *Policy on Presiding Officers for Convocation*, which was revised by Governing Council on May 30, 2007, now allows for Principals and Deans to serve as presiding officers in specific circumstances. When the President is absent or acting for the Chancellor, the President’s place is to be taken by the Vice-President and Provost. In the event that the Vice-President and Provost is also absent, the *Policy* identifies the individuals (such as the Deputy Provost or appropriate Vice-Provost) who may serve in his/her absence.

A natural extension of this most recent revision would be to permit Vice-Presidents who are members of the University’s faculty to serve as presiding officers of Convocation. If more than one Vice-President would be appropriate to take the President’s place, the President shall designate one to serve. This proposed *Policy* change will allow even greater flexibility in sharing ceremonial responsibilities among senior officials of the University.

The proposed revised *Policy* is attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved:

THAT the revised *Policy on Presiding Officers for Convocation* be recommended to the Governing Council for approval, effective immediately, replacing the existing *Policy* approved by the Governing Council on May 30, 2007.