

# Report of the Governing Council Election Process 2008

## 1. Introduction

This report is the first step in the development of the *Election Guidelines* for 2009. The purpose of the report is to provide factual information about the 2008 Governing Council election and to indicate areas for discussion and possible revision in the *Guidelines*.

## 2. Statistical Information about the 2008 Governing Council Election

In January 2008, elections were required for 12 seats on the Governing Council, with terms beginning July 1, 2008. There were elections for four teaching staff seats and eight student seats. Voting was necessary in one teaching staff constituency and four student constituencies.

Table 1 summarizes the details of the nominations received in each constituency.

**Table 1: Summary of Nominations for the Governing Council Elections 2008**

Constituency	# of seats available	# of nominations received	# of times nominations were re-opened
<b>Teaching Staff</b>			
Constituency IB (Faculty of Arts and Science)	1	1	0
Constituency II (UTM)	1	2	0
Constituency VII (Professional Faculties <sup>1</sup> )	1	1	0
Constituency VIII (OISE/UT)	1	1	0
<b>Full-time Undergraduate Students</b>			
Constituency I (Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC)	2	6	0
Constituency II (Professional Faculties)	2	6 (one withdrew)	0
<b>Part-time Undergraduate Students</b>	2	2	4
<b>Graduate Students</b>			
Constituency I	1	2	0
Constituency II	1	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>1</sup> John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, Rotman School of Management, Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Information, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Music and the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

Table 2 summarizes the details of the voting in each constituency in the 2008 Governing Council Elections.

**Table 2: Summary of Voting in the Governing Council Elections 2008**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats</b>	<b># of seats acclaimed</b>	<b># of seats elected</b>	<b># in Constituency</b>	<b># of valid votes cast</b>	<b># of voters</b>	<b>% voting</b>
<b>Teaching Staff</b>							
Constituency IB (Faculty of Arts and Science)	1	1	0		N/A		
Constituency II (UTM)	1	0	1	396	75	75	19
Constituency VII (Professional Faculties)	1	1	0		N/A		
Constituency VIII (OISE/UT)	1	1	0		N/A		
<b>Full-time Undergraduate Students</b>							
Constituency I (Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC)	2	0	2	40,914	4,538	N/A	N/A
Constituency II (Professional Faculties)	2	1	1	12,160	716	751	6.8
<b>Part-Time Undergraduate Students</b>	2	2	0	6,399	0	0	0
<b>Graduate Students</b>							
Constituency I	1	0	1	7,058	484	486	6.9
Constituency II	1	0	1	6,442	515	521	8.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>				

Table 3 shows the size of each student constituency and the number of valid votes cast within each constituency over the past five years.

**Table 3: Voting Results from Student Constituencies**

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
<b>Full-Time Undergraduate Students</b>					
Constituency I:					
Constituency Size	<b>34,390</b>	<b>37,212</b>	<b>40,460</b>	<b>40,808</b>	<b>40,914</b>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	5,571	8,283	3,399	5,083	4,538
Constituency II					
Constituency Size	<b>10,561</b>	<b>10,696</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>12,160</b>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	1,984	1,611	940	Both seats acclaimed	(716 votes: 1 <sup>st</sup> seat) (acclaimed: 2 <sup>nd</sup> seat)
<b>Part-Time Undergraduate Students</b>					
Constituency Size	<b>7,499</b>	<b>7,498</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	300	508	Both seats acclaimed	Both seats acclaimed	Both seats acclaimed
<b>Graduate Students</b>					
Constituency I:					
Constituency Size	<b>6,522</b>	<b>6,599</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>6,271</b>	<b>7,058</b>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	87	308	Seat acclaimed	317	484
Constituency II					
Constituency Size	<b>5,798</b>	<b>5,896</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>5,984</b>	<b>6,442</b>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	Seat acclaimed	Seat acclaimed	Seat acclaimed	144	515

### 3. Election Process 2007

#### I. Revision of the *Election Guidelines* for 2008

In October 2007, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Ms. Nancy Smart, prepared the *Election Guidelines 2008*, which took into account community suggestions received by the Elections Committee as well as suggestions that arose during the Committee's discussion of the 2007 Election Report at its September 19, 2007 meeting.

In August 2008, through an online survey and emails sent directly to all students registered in the Fall 2008 session<sup>2</sup>, Ms. Mae-Yu Tan, Deputy CRO, elicited community feedback regarding the 2008 election and the *Election Guidelines 2008*. Consequently, the Elections Committee now has before it the greatest number of community responses ever received.

Table 4 summarizes the response received from the University community since the 2003-2004 academic year.

**Table 4: Community Input into Elections Guidelines**

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Number of written submissions received	7	5	5	3	12	69
Number of individuals attending open meeting on elections	4	1	3	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### II. Election Posters

For the first time, posters were not produced and posted prior to the call for nominations. This decision had been made by the Elections Committee following a discussion on changes in the elections advertising strategy at its meeting of October 16, 2007 (please see Report Number 49, p. 4.) Instead, several email blitzes occurred prior to the nomination deadline as well as during the actual election. It would appear that the email messages did result in more nominees and greater voter participation in some constituencies, particularly among graduate students registered in Divisions III and IV. There was a very small decrease in voter participation among undergraduate arts and science students; however, given the modesty of the decrease, it is reasonable to conclude that email notices are at least as, if not more, effective than posters.

#### III. Nominations

Nominations opened on Friday January 11, 2008 at 12:00 noon and closed on Friday January 25, 2008 at 5:00 pm. All nomination forms were available electronically on the Governing Council website and in paper form from the Governing Council Office and the Registrars' Offices of the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) and the University of Toronto at Scarborough (UTSC). The Call for Nominations was publicized in campus media (*The Bulletin*, *The Varsity*, *The Newspaper*, *The Underground*, and *The Medium*), and was sent to the six representative

<sup>2</sup> That is, all "Invit" and "Reg" students except first-year students, non-degree students, and students registered in the Toronto School of Theology

campus-wide groups: the University of Toronto Students Union (UTSU), the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS), the Graduate Students' Union (GSU), the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU), the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), and the University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA).

#### **IV. Election**

The Call for Nominations resulted in six acclamations across five constituencies (three of the four teaching staff constituencies and two of the five student constituencies). The nomination period was reopened four times in the part-time undergraduate student constituency.

The CRO conducted an All Candidates Meeting for the student candidates. The purpose of the meeting was to provide candidates with information regarding their respective constituency, the voting process, and the campaign rules as outlined in the *Elections Guidelines 2008*. It was made clear that each candidate's signature on the nomination form would indicate his/her agreement to be bound by the rules of the *Election Guidelines*.

Candidates in Teaching Staff Constituency II also received information regarding their constituency, the voting process, and the election rules. By signing the nomination form, each candidate agreed to be bound by those rules.

All students, except medical residents, voted on the web through the University's Repository of Student Information (ROSI) system. Medical residents and faculty in the Teaching Staff Constituency II voted through mail ballot.

The campaign period for ROSI-based elections ran from February 25, 2008, to March 7, 2008.

The results of the Governing Council elections for the student constituencies were announced to candidates at 1:00 p.m. on March 17, 2008. Counting of the Teaching Staff Constituency II ballots took place on March 18, 2008, with results released to candidates that day.

#### **V. Campaign Violations**

This was the third year that a new system for considering and handling violations of campaign rules was used<sup>3</sup>. The system, which is described in the *Election Guidelines, 2008, Appendix C*, divides violations broadly into two categories - *serious* and *severe*. A candidate found to have committed two *serious* or one *severe* violation could, at the discretion of the Elections Overseers, be disqualified from the election.

Although no violations were reported or discovered, the Elections Overseers were convened once on March 26, 2008 to adjudicate an appeal of the election process. For details of the appeal and its outcome, please refer to Report Number 50 of the Elections Committee.

Table 5 summarizes the allegations of campaign violations and appeals that have been made since 2002. Note that between 2002 and 2005 the demerit point system was in force and in 2006 it was replaced by the present system of serious and severe violations.

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<sup>3</sup> The system was first implemented for the 2006 Governing Council elections.

**Table 5: Summary of Campaign Violation Allegations and Appeals, 2002-2008**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of allegations of campaign violations	2	8	0	1	10	6	0
Number of appeals of election process/results	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Number of appeals of technical invalidation	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Number of allegations and appeals referred to Elections Overseers	1	2	1	2	6	5	1
Number of Demerit points imposed by Elections Committee or, after 2005, number of <i>serious/severe</i> violations found	0	0	0	1	3/0	3/0	0

#### 4. Draft Recommendations for Discussion by the Committee Regarding the Governing Council Election Process for 2009

- (a) Explore the possibility of developing an on-line voting mechanism for faculty, staff and post-graduate medical residents
- (b) Facilitate the development of a UTM and a UTSC *Statement on Campaigning in Residences*
- (c) Develop a survey to elicit candidate feedback on the elections process directly following the close of the election.
- (d) Continue having a two-week voting period on ROSI.