



TO: Governing Council

SPONSOR: Mr. John F. (Jack) Petch,
Chair of the Executive Committee and the Governing Council

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DATE: December 2, 2009 for December 10, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 5(f)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Proposed *Election Guidelines 2010*

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Executive Committee receives and reviews reports of other committees for transmittal to the Governing Council, as part of its responsibility for preparing the agenda for meetings of the Governing Council.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

At its meeting on November 3, 2009, the University Affairs Board recommended to Governing Council that the proposed *Election Guidelines 2010* be approved. The Executive Committee discussed the proposed *Elections Guidelines 2010* at its meeting on November 30, 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Two issues relating to the proposed *Election Guidelines 2010* arose during the Executive Committee meeting of November 30, 2009:

1 – Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering - Professional Experience Year Program

A member suggested that students registered in the Professional Experience Year Program (PEY) within the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering should be considered full-time undergraduate students for the purpose of the Governing Council elections, even though they are registered as part-time undergraduate students for the duration of their internships following either their second year or third year of full-time undergraduate studies. PEY students are normally registered again as full-time undergraduate students immediately following their internships, so it is reasonable that they should be eligible to participate in the elections as full-time undergraduate students. Moreover, PEY students on internships are analogous to co-op students at the University of Toronto at Scarborough on work term, who are currently eligible to participate in the Governing Council elections as full-time undergraduate students. Accordingly,

to eliminate this disparity and to address the issue raised at the Executive Committee for all students registered in PEY, two amendments to the proposed *Election Guidelines 2010* are proposed. The second of the two proposed amendments ensures that PEY students are not members of the Governing Council while they are on their internships. They are:

- (1) The addition of the italicized and underlined text below to the definition of “Full-Time Undergraduate Student” (which is reproduced below):

“Full-Time Undergraduate Student” means a Student registered at the University in a program of full-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 is not registered in the School of Graduate Studies or the Toronto School of Theology. Full-Time Undergraduate Student status will be determined by the definition used in the Student’s academic division. For the purpose of the Governing Council elections, Students at the University of Toronto at Scarborough who are registered in a work term and Students registered in the Professional Experience Year Program, will be considered to be Full-Time Undergraduate Students.

- (2) The addition to subsection 9.6(2)(a) (which is reproduced below) of the italicized and underlined text and the deletion therefrom of the word, “and”, in the manner shown below:

Section 9.6(2) – Members of a Student Constituency

- (a) In order to be eligible to be elected as a Student member of the Governing Council, an individual must:
 - (i) be a Student within one of the five constituencies;
 - (ii) be nominated as a candidate by Students within the individual’s own constituency; ~~and~~
 - (iii) remain a Student of this same constituency from the close of the nomination period to the time when all relevant election-related appeals and recounts, if any, have been finally disposed of, or, if there are no appeals or recounts, when winners have been declared elected (see exception below relating to Students enrolled in double degree programs); and
 - (iv) not be a Student who is registered in the Professional Experience Year Program (PEY) and who will be interning under PEY from the month of September immediately following the elections to the month of May of the following year.

2 – Proposed Reduction in the Number of Nominators

In recent years, administrative staff, teaching staff, and students seeking candidacy were required to secure nominations from 20, 10, and 20 individuals, respectively, from within their constituencies. Members recognized that reducing the number of nominators could be beneficial, because lowering the threshold to secure candidacy would encourage active participation in the elections. Concerns were also expressed, however, that reducing the number of nominators to five for all constituencies in the Governing Council elections could lead to undesirable outcomes. It could, for example, lead to numerous candidates who could be elected by fewer votes, and could make the elections process more susceptible to the effects of block voting. Several members

pointed out that some of the adverse consequences associated with lowering the threshold to secure candidacy might be addressed by modifying the voting procedures.

The Executive Committee directed the Secretariat to consult a faculty member expert in the political science of electoral procedures, to advise the Governing Council on the implications of reducing the number of nominators to five. In particular, if the pendulum were to swing in the direction of excessively long lists of candidates, is there any voting procedure that could be instituted to ensure a fair outcome? When available, the advice will be communicated to members of the Governing Council to inform the discussion at the Council's meeting. It was understood that the advice might not be obtained in sufficient time to permit a detailed proposal by the December 10th meeting of Council. Depending on the nature of the advice, a further amendment to the proposed *Election Guidelines 2010* may be needed if, for example, the actions required regarding the conduct of the elections do not fall within the authority of the Chief Returning Officer.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no significant implications for the University's operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it Resolved

THAT the proposed *Election Guidelines 2010*, amended in the manner described below be approved, effective immediately:

- (1) The addition of the italicized and underlined text below to the definition of "Full-Time Undergraduate Student":

"Full-Time Undergraduate Student" means a Student registered at the University in a program of full-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 is not registered in the School of Graduate Studies or the Toronto School of Theology. Full-Time Undergraduate Student status will be determined by the definition used in the Student's academic division. For the purpose of the Governing Council elections, Students at the University of Toronto at Scarborough who are registered in a work term *and Students registered in the Professional Experience Year Program*, will be considered to be Full-Time Undergraduate Students.

- (2) The addition to subsection 9.6(2)(a) of the italicized and underlined text and the deletion therefrom of the word, "and", in the manner shown below:

Section 9.6(2) – Members of a Student Constituency

- (a) In order to be eligible to be elected as a Student member of the Governing Council, an individual must:

- (i) be a Student within one of the five constituencies;
- (ii) be nominated as a candidate by Students within the individual's own constituency; ~~and~~
- (iii) remain a Student of this same constituency from the close of the nomination period to the time when all relevant election-related appeals and recounts, if any, have been finally disposed of, or, if there are no appeals or recounts, when winners have been declared elected (see exception below relating to Students enrolled in double degree programs); and
- (iv) not be a Student who is registered in the Professional Experience Year Program (PEY) and who will be interning under PEY from the month of September immediately following the elections to the month of May of the following year.