



**FOR INFORMATION AND  
DISCUSSION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** Elections Committee

**SPONSOR:** Professor William Gough, Chair, Elections Committee

**CONTACT INFO:** [william.gough@utoronto.ca](mailto:william.gough@utoronto.ca); 416-287-7027

**DATE:** October 3 for October 10, 2013

**AGENDA ITEM:** 1

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT SEATS ON CAMPUS  
COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Elections Committee is responsible for considering the detailed guidelines for elections procedures (Elections Committee Terms of Reference, Section 3).

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

- 1. Elections Committee [for information and discussion] (October 10, 2013)**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

On December 13, 2012, the Governing Council approved the *Election Guidelines 2013* on the recommendation of the Elections Committee. Upon the review of the 2013 elections process at its meeting of June 20, 2013, the Elections Committee decided that the distribution of student seats on the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) Academic Affairs Committees (AACs) and Campus Affairs Committees (CACs) should be slightly altered in order to improve the elections process.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

Following the June 20<sup>th</sup> Elections Committee meeting, a proposal to amend the *Election Guidelines* so that Campus Council student members' constituencies would not impact the distribution of seats of non-Campus Council student members on the AACs and CACs was prepared and distributed broadly to student governors, leaders of UTM and UTSC student societies, the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students (APUS), and to every student

## ***PROPOSED CHANGES TO DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT SEATS ON CAMPUS COUNCIL COMMITTEES***

### **HIGHLIGHTS:** (cont'd)

registered at UTM and UTSC.<sup>1</sup> Students and student leaders were invited to attend consultation sessions held in September, 2013 and to submit written responses to the proposal.

Consultation sessions were held on each campus and were attended by representatives of undergraduate and graduate part-time and full-time student societies, student governors, and individual students. Overall, the response to the proposal was positive and no objections were submitted. Once the necessary but complex elections and appointments process had been explained, students involved in the consultation process agreed with the proposed change to set specific numbers for the distribution of non-Campus Council student seats of the AACs and CACs, independent of the distribution of seats of Campus Council student members of the Committees. It was emphasized that the total number of student seats on the Committees would remain unchanged. Discussion regarding the possibility of other combinations of full-time undergraduate, part-time undergraduate, and graduate seats on the AACs and CACs took place. It was explained that at least one of the two Campus Council student seats would likely be filled by one full-time undergraduate student. In that light, the total number of students within that constituency serving on the AACs and CACs would remain unchanged.

Other related issues discussed included the elections schedule, the timing of the elections and appointments, the number of required nominators, and the relationship between student governors, student members of the Campus Councils and the non-Campus Council student members on the AACs and CACs. In response to discussion of the need to continually raise awareness among students of opportunities to participate within local and institutional governance bodies, APUS expressed a desire to work with the Secretariat in addressing that issue among part-time undergraduate students.

Some questions raised during the consultation sessions addressed the membership and composition of the AACs and CACs. Students were advised that the Elections Committee did not have a mandate to review the Terms of Reference of the Campus Councils and their Standing Committees. Such issues could be considered during the review of the tri-campus governance structure in 2014.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

For information.

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<sup>1</sup> See attached sample communication.



**Memorandum to:** Student Members of the Governing Council  
Presidents of APUS, GSAS, SCSU, UTMSU, and UTMAGS

**From:** William Gough, Chair of the Elections Committee  
Louis R. Charpentier, Secretary of the Governing Council

**Date:** August 23, 2013

**Subject:** **Proposed Changes to Distribution of Student Seats on Campus Council Committees**

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We write to ask for your input on a specific aspect of distribution of student seats on the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) Academic Affairs Committees (AACs) and Campus Affairs Committees (CACs). The distribution is addressed in the [Election Guidelines 2013](#).

### **Current Process**

Currently, full-time undergraduate, part-time undergraduate, and graduate student seats on the AACs and CACs are distributed between both Campus Council and non-Campus Council student members. (See table below.) A complex staggered elections process followed by an appointment process is needed in order to allow for the possible contributions of elected and appointed students on these governance bodies. The Campus Council has the responsibility to approve the appointment of students from among its elected members to the AAC and CAC. The existing process requires non-Campus Council student candidates to wait until the end of May, after the completion of the Governing Council student elections, the Campus Council student elections, and the Campus Councils' appointment processes, to learn whether they have been elected to serve on the AAC or CAC.

### **Proposed Changes**

The Elections Committee recommends that Section 11.6.(3) and 11.7.(3) of the *Guidelines* be amended so that the Campus Council student members' constituencies do not have an impact on the distribution of seats of non-Campus Council student members on the AACs and CACs. This would allow non-Campus Council student candidates to learn much earlier - by mid-April - whether they had been elected to the AAC or CAC. The total number of student seats on both the AACs and CACs would remain unchanged. Please see the table below for the proposed distribution of non-Campus Council seats for full-time undergraduate, part-time undergraduate, and graduate students. This proposal has been developed in order to strengthen the election/appointment process for future years, beginning with the 2014 elections.

Governance Bodies/Elections Committee/2013-14 Correspondence/2014 EG Consultation Memo to Student Leaders.docx  
Updated 2013-08-22

	<b>Campus Council Student Members</b>	<b>Non-Campus Council Student Members</b>	<b>Total</b>
AAC Current Structure	2	7	5 full-time undergraduate 2 part-time undergraduate <u>2 graduate</u> <b>9</b>
AAC Proposed Structure	2 (full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate - no restrictions)	4 full-time undergraduate 1 part-time undergraduate <u>2 graduate</u> 7	<b>9</b>
CAC Current Structure	1	6	5 full-time undergraduate 1 part-time undergraduate <u>1 graduate</u> <b>7</b>
CAC Proposed Structure	1 (full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate – no restriction)	4 full-time undergraduate 1 part-time undergraduate <u>1 graduate</u> <b>6</b>	7

### Consultation Sessions

Consultation sessions with student governors, student leaders, and UTM and UTSC students are planned for September, 2013. The Elections Committee of the Governing Council will then consider all feedback it has received, before finalizing its revisions to the 2014 *Guidelines* at its meeting of October 10, 2013. It is hoped that information about the 2014 election processes could be shared with the University community by November, well in advance of the opening of the nomination period in early January, 2014.

The dates and times for the consultation sessions are listed below.

Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

University of Toronto Scarborough

Council Chamber, Room 160

Arts and Administration Building

(For UTSC Students)

Please RSVP to [campuscouncil@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:campuscouncil@utsc.utoronto.ca) by Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon.

Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

University of Toronto – St. George Campus

Simcoe Hall Board Room, 27 King's College Circle

(For Student Governors)

Please RSVP to [governing.council@utoronto.ca](mailto:governing.council@utoronto.ca) by Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon.

Wednesday, September 18, 2013, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

University of Toronto Mississauga

Council Chamber, Room 3130

William G. Davis Building

(For UTM Students)

Please RSVP to [council.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:council.utm@utoronto.ca) by Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon.

A communication will be sent to all UTM and UTSC students inviting them to attend a consultation session. Students may also submit written comments on the proposed changes by **e-mail** to [gc.elections@utoronto.ca](mailto:gc.elections@utoronto.ca) or attend a consultation session on another campus. Written comments should be submitted by **Tuesday, October 2, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.**

Thank you.