UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 52 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

October 14, 2008

To the University Affairs Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Mr. Stephen Smith (In the Chair)
Mr. P.C. Choo
Professor Ronald H. Kluger
Mr. Olivier Sorin

Regrets:
Mr. Gary P. Mooney

Secretariat:
Ms Mae-Yu Tan

In Attendance:
Ms Nancy Smart, Chief Returning Officer

In this report, item 3 is recommended to the University Affairs Board for approval; all other items are reported for information.

1. Approval of the Report of the Previous Meeting

Report Number 51 (September 18, 2008) was approved.

2. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

a) Student Newspapers

The Chair said that during a discussion of the elections budget and the cost of advertising at the previous meeting, a member had asked whether the University administration provided funding to student newspapers. Mr. Jim Delaney, the Director of the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students, had informed the Secretariat that no base funding was provided to student papers by the central administration. However, they did provide office space. He also noted that some papers might receive funding from local student governments who collected fees from students. On a separate matter, the Chair reported that *the Varsity* newspaper had confirmed that it posted each issue of its paper on its website.

2.   Business Arising from the Previous Meeting (cont'd)

b)   Memo to the Task Force on University Governance

The Chair commented that the Committee had generated a number of valuable suggestions at its last meeting. In order to communicate some of the issues and recommendations that the Committee had discussed, a memorandum to the Task Force on University Governance had been drafted. Members reviewed the memorandum, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix "A", providing suggestions for revisions.

3.   *Election Guidelines 2009*

The Chair stated that the Elections Committee recommended approval of the *Election Guidelines* to the University Affairs Board (UAB). The *Election Guidelines 2009* would be considered for approval at the UAB meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at 4:30 pm.

Invited to highlight the changes to the *Election Guidelines*, Ms Nancy Smart, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), informed members that the *Guidelines* had been significantly reformatted for ease of use. The section containing an introduction to the Governing Council had been made more prominent, strengthening the focus on the responsibilities of governors. This was followed by the section on the authority for the elections, which had been revised for clarity. Information on the elections process had been reorganized by constituency, with the intent that prospective candidates would only need to review the relevant portion of the *Guidelines* and the common introductory portions. That is, separate sections for administrative staff, teaching staff, and students had been created.

Ms Smart acknowledged the extensive contributions of Ms Cristina Oke, a past Secretary to the Committee, to the revised *Guidelines*. Members praised the improved *Guidelines* and raised the following matters in discussion.

(a)   Campaigning Regulations

Members had varying opinions on the extent to which candidates' use of electronic media for campaigning should be limited and monitored for violations. The Committee wanted to ensure that no candidate would benefit unfairly from his or her access to electronic mailing addresses. At the same time, it was important to work towards increasing awareness of Governing Council elections, a goal that could perhaps be achieved through candidates' campaigns. Recognizing the CRO's limited resources, the Committee ultimately agreed to remove the requirement that candidates "…copy the CRO on all campaign email messages sent to electronic mailing lists or listserves" (*Elections Guidelines 2008*, p. 30, Appendix B, 7.) It was expected that candidates would not distribute communications that might reasonably be considered libelous by the CRO. However, the requirement that candidates not use resources to which they had access by virtue of their membership in or affiliation with any University organization (including privileged email lists) was retained.

Upon the recommendation of a member, the Committee agreed to insert in the *2009 Guidelines* the following statement that explicitly outlined a principle for campaigning within the teaching and administrative staff constituencies.

3.   *Election Guidelines 2009* (cont'd)

(a)   **Campaigning Regulations** (cont'd)

All candidates must be allowed reasonable access to members of their constituency during the campaign period. Such access shall not be unreasonably withheld.

(b)   **Election Expenses Spending Limits**

The CRO noted that a member had suggested previously that the election expense spending limit and the amount of reimbursement for administrative staff be increased. In her view, such an increase was not warranted, as it was reasonable to expect decreased expenses in the future, given technological developments. As well, variations in the permitted election cost per person already existed between constituencies. The CRO recommended that no changes be made to the election expenses section of the *Guidelines* and members of the Committee unanimously agreed.

(c)   **Election Overseers**

A member stated that, in his view, an existing general restriction on Committee members was somewhat discriminatory. Those Committee members who participated in an election campaign were not permitted to serve as members of the Election Overseers. The member's proposed revision, which would only prevent a member from hearing cases relevant to his or her own constituency, was agreed to by the Committee. The revised text is provided below (*Elections Guidelines 2009*, p. 9, section 2d., Elections Committee).

A member of the Elections Committee, who is standing for election, involved in an election campaign, or endorsing a candidate for election, may act as an Election Overseer provided he or she is not called upon to consider a matter arising from or pertaining to his or her own constituency.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the *Election Guidelines 2009* as amended, and attached hereto as "Appendix B", be approved.

4.   **Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair reminded members that no further meetings of the Committee were scheduled for the 2008-2009 year. However, the Committee might be called to meet as the Election Overseers during the 2009 election period.

5.   **Other Business**

Ms Smart stated that the Secretariat was interested in exploring the increased use of technological tools as an alternative to the use of campus newspapers for advertising Governing Council elections. Such a development might serve as an effective means in reducing the amount of the election expenses and using limited resources more effectively to cover all election-related responsibilities appropriately. One member spoke in favour of using both newspaper and

5.   Other Business (cont'd)

electronic advertisements.

A member recalled that, in the past, the Secretariat had provided, at cost, administrative staff candidates with business address mailing labels so that they could contact members in their constituency for campaigning purposes. Ms Smart suggested that it would be possible to instead provide candidates with an electronic list of administrative staff email addresses at no cost. Members were in favour of such a change.

<div align="center">The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.</div>

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Secretary   Chair
October 18, 2008

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Memorandum to: Rose M. Patten, Chair of the *Towards 2030* Task Force on University Governance

From: Stephen C. Smith, Chair of the Elections Committee

Date: October 15, 2008

Subject: **Suggestions for Enhancement of Governors' Experiences**

I am writing on behalf of the Elections Committee which is responsible for preparing guidelines for procedures to be used in the election of teaching staff, administrative staff, and students to the Governing Council. At a recent meeting, the Committee discussed the broader issue of how well-qualified members of the University community could be encouraged to become involved in governance. A related item which emerged was the exploration of ways in which the Committee could facilitate a productive experience for internal governors. In light of the current work of the *Towards 2030* Task Force on Governance, members of the Task Force may find the Committee's input helpful.

One suggestion was to encourage divisional leaders to develop collaborative relationships with members currently serving on the Governing Council. This might be done through occasional meetings with governors during which divisional priorities and matters under consideration by Governing Council could be discussed. Another suggestion was for divisional leaders to facilitate the invitation of governors to attend divisional council, faculty, student, or staff meetings, providing them with an opportunity to report briefly on their activities as governor and to respond to questions. Such communication would assist governors in realizing the importance of their participation in University governance, while becoming more informed about divisional priorities. The process could also be a means of mentoring members of the University community who might participate in governance in the future.

The Committee also discussed the matter of expenses incurred by governors, particularly student members whose investment of time was especially noteworthy, given their academic responsibilities and often limited resources. Perhaps some form of compensation for student governors could be considered, in recognition of the unique costs associated with being a student member of the Governing Council. This suggestion arose out of a conversation about the challenges faced by governors from the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) and the University of Toronto at Scarborough (UTSC) who are frequently required to travel to the St. George campus in order to attend numerous meetings and events.

In support of its mandate, the Elections Committee intends to continue to work to increase awareness within the internal University community of the Governing Council and its role. Members strongly believe that by generating greater enthusiasm, interest, and a feeling of empowerment among all constituencies, participation in elections and University governance will increase.

I would be pleased to discuss these suggestions with you. I may be contacted directly by phone (416-366-7888) or by email (stephen.smith@jonescollombin.com).

Thank you.