

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

REPORT NUMBER 29 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

September 13, 2002

To the University Affairs Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on September 13, 2002 at noon in the Falconer Room, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor Michael Marrus (In the Chair)
Ms. Shirley Hoy
Ms. Karen Lewis
Mr. Elan Ohayon
Mrs. Susan Scace

Secretariat:

Ms. Cristina Oke, Chief Returning Officer
Mrs. Beverley Stefureak (Recording Secretary)

ALL ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION.

The Chair opened the meeting by giving members the opportunity to introduce themselves. He proceeded to outline general expectations for the year and the process by which it was hoped these could be achieved in a fair, efficient and expeditious manner. He concluded by requesting that all members cooperate with the Office of Governing Council by responding in a timely way to messages, including confirmation of their attendance at upcoming meetings to facilitate the work of supporting this Committee.

A matter arose with respect to the terms of reference and was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

1. Reports of the Previous Meetings

Report Number 27 and Report Number 28 of the meetings of March 18, 2002 were approved.

2. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising.

3. Status Report on Governing Council By-Elections

The Chief Returning Officer informed the Committee that there were two teaching staff vacancies on the Academic Board – one in the Faculty of Medicine and one in the University of Toronto at Mississauga -- and nominations from those constituencies would open on September 17 and close on September 30. Additionally, the resignation of Mr. Harmeet Gill to pursue studies at another university had led to a vacant student seat on Governing Council. Nominations would open on September 23 from the full-time, undergraduate (professional faculties) constituency. The delay in one week was to allow the CRO time to confirm registration status of current representatives and to be sure that there was not a need for more than one by-election.

3. Status Report on Governing Council By-Elections (cont'd)

A member asked how the by-elections would be managed. Ms. Oke responded that the by-election would be conducted by web-based voting as required by the *Elections Guidelines 2002*, approved by the Governing Council in December 2001. The Chair confirmed that the Committee would consider suggestions for the improvement of the election process following the open meeting to receive community input, but that it was not in order to begin such consideration at this meeting.

4. Draft Report of Elections Process 2002

The Chief Returning Officer had circulated with the Agenda a draft Report of the Elections Process 2002. The Chair emphasized that this was a factual report, based on the experience of the past year and, therefore, unless there were omissions of fact, it was not open to amendment nor debate. After some discussion, all members agreed that there were no major themes missing from the Report and that it would be a good spring-board from which to launch discussion about the *Elections Guidelines 2003*.

5. Community Input for 2003 Elections Process

Ms. Oke had circulated a draft letter at the beginning of the meeting and the Chair asked for comments. A member thought that the document was positive but suggested a more structured agenda, for example, allowing for formal presentations for the first hour and moderated discussion for the second. Also, he wished to add that the Elections Committee would always be open to suggestions for improving the process.

In response, the Chair noted that, although he liked the suggestion of a more formal structure, he was of the opinion that the community would be best served with the format outlined. After discussion, the Committee agreed to change "if time permits" to "as time permits" in the third paragraph, first line.

On the second point of adding a statement that the Committee was always open to input, the Chair noted the importance, given that this related to electoral guidelines, of setting a deadline for submissions. Certainly, if the Committee were approached with an outstanding idea, accommodation would be made as feasible. However, to maintain fairness and effectiveness in the elections process, the *Guidelines* once approved by Governing Council could not be subject to further input for change until the following year.

Members agreed with the draft letter as amended.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair reminded members that the next meeting was scheduled to be an open meeting for the purposes of receiving community input. It would take place in the South Dining Room of Hart House on Wednesday, October 2.

7. Other Business

A member asked to have a motion related to the process of co-opting student members for all Governing Council boards to be replaced with a process of democratic representation (that is, rather than the approved nominations and striking committee processes, institute additional election processes). Noting that the process for appointing co-opted members was not within the jurisdiction of the Elections Committee, the Chair requested that the member raise the concern with the Chair of the Governing Council who could advise on the appropriate route for effective intervention. The matter of selecting and approving co-opted members was within the terms of reference of each

7. **Other Business** (cont'd)

Board. Though there had been extensive and public discussion of these terms of reference during the year, he was sure that this was the proper way to present suggestions for further improvement.

There was continued discussion, following which the Chair ruled that this was a matter over which the Elections Committee had no jurisdiction and it could not, therefore, be placed on this Committee's agenda at any time. The member was again advised of the appropriate route to raise the matter, that being with the Chair of Governing Council.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Recording Secretary

October 29, 2002

(21870)

Chair