

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

REPORT NUMBER 40 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

September 20, 2005

To the University Affairs Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in the Falconer Room, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor Michael Marrus (In the Chair)
Mr. P.C. Choo
Dr. Shari Graham Fell
Mr. Stephen Smith
Mr. Mahadeo Sukhai

Secretariat
Ms Cristina Oke

In Attendance:
Dr. Anthony Gray, Chief Returning Officer

In this report, all items are reported to the University Affairs Board for information.

Introductory Remarks

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves. He reminded members that the role of the Committee was to develop the Guidelines for Governing Council elections, and to act as overseers to hear complaints about matters related to the election process. He explained to members that the main purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the report of the Governing Council Elections Process 2005 and to discuss the process for inviting community input for the 2006 elections process.

1. Reports of the Previous Meetings

Reports Number 37 (October 18, 2004), Number 38 (February 10, 2005), and Number 39 (March 17, 2005) were approved.

2. Business Arising from the Previous Meetings

There was no business arising from the Reports of the previous meetings.

3. Report of the Governing Council Elections Process 2005

Members reviewed the Report of the Governing Council Elections Process 2005, and discussed the draft recommendations for the 2006 Elections Guidelines.

3. Report of the Governing Council Elections Process 2005 (cont'd)

Members agreed that efforts should continue to raise the profile of the Governing Council within the University and to encourage greater participation in the Governing Council election process. Members also agreed with the recommendation of the appointment, by the Secretary of the Governing Council, of a Deputy Returning Officer to assist the Chief Returning Officer, as appropriate. This appointment would be reported for information to the University Affairs Board.

Members directed the Chief Returning Officer to make provisions in the 2006 Guidelines for those holding the ranks of Sessional Lecturer I and Sessional Lecturer II to participate in Governing Council elections in a manner analogous to the ways in which eligibility for other groups, particularly students, is determined and adjudicated.

The Chief Returning Officer informed members that the eligibility provisions in the *Election Guidelines* did not disenfranchise students from being candidates in an election. In order to hold their seat, students must be registered by mid-September in the constituency in which they had been elected in the spring.

Members reviewed the demerit point system. There was agreement that it was appropriate to have provisions in the Guidelines to deter bad behaviour, but that the current system could be improved. It was suggested that the demerit system could be revised to balance the recognition that different infractions may have different degrees of severity with the importance of maintaining a manageable and flexible system. The Chief Returning Officer was directed to review the current list of infractions and revise as appropriate.

It was agreed that appropriate campaign regulations for the use of technology in the election period would be developed, that referred to current University policies and consolidated past practice.

It was also agreed that the Chief Returning Officer would work with Students' Administrative Council (SAC) representatives to co-ordinate the Governing Council election schedule with that of the SAC elections, and to identify any areas of conflict between regulations for the SAC elections and those for Governing Council elections to eliminate ways in which candidates might derive an unfair advantage through joint campaigning.

4. Other Business

At the invitation of the Chair, Dr. Anthony Gray, the Chief Returning Officer, reported that nominations were open for two seats on the Academic Board - one in the Faculty of Arts and Science, and one in the Faculty of Nursing.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Secretary

Chair

October 6, 2005