

Report of the Governing Council Election Process 2005

1. Introduction

This report is the first step in the development of the *Election Guidelines* for 2006. The purpose of the report is to provide factual information about the previous election, and to indicate areas of possible revisions in the *Guidelines* for the next election year.

2. Statistical Information about the 2005 Governing Council Election

In January 2005, elections were required for 12 seats on the Governing Council, with terms beginning July 1, 2005. There were elections for four teaching staff and eight students. Voting was necessary in three student constituencies. In March 2005, the teaching staff member from Constituency VI resigned from the Governing Council. A by-election was conducted in May 2005 to fill the position.

Table 1 summarizes the details of the 2005 Governing Council Elections, including the by-election.

Table 1: Summary of Governing Council Elections, 2005

Constituency	# of positions available	# of seats acclaimed	# of seats elected	# in Constituency	# of valid votes cast	Number of voters	% voting
Teaching Staff							
Arts and Science	1	1					
University of Toronto at Mississauga	1	1					
Architecture, Landscape, and Design; Rotman School of Management, Forestry, Information Studies, Law, Music, Social Work	1	1					
OISE/UT	1	1					
<i>By-election:</i> Dentistry, Nursing, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, Physical Education and Health	1		1	171	59	59	35%
Full-time Undergraduate Students							
Constituency I: [Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC]	2		2	37,212	8,283	4854	13%
Constituency II: Professional Faculties	2		2	10,696	1,611	1,049	10%
Part-Time Undergraduate Students	2		2	7,498	508	326	4%
Graduate Students							
Constituency I	1		1	6,599	308	308	5%
Constituency II	1	1					
TOTAL	13	5	8				

2. Statistical Information about the 2005 Governing Council Election (cont't)

Table 2 shows the size of each student constituency and the number of valid votes cast within the constituency for the past four years.

Table 2: Voting Results from Student Constituencies

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Full-time Undergraduate Students				
Constituency I:				
Constituency Size	23,093	25,489	34,390	37,212
Number of Valid Votes Cast	1,462	4,900	5,571	8,283
Constituency II				
Constituency Size	9,577	10,099	10,561	10,696
Number of Valid Votes Cast	acclamation	1,899	1,984	1,611
Part-time Undergraduate Students				
Constituency Size	N/a	11,461	7,499	7,498
Number of Valid Votes Cast	acclamation	995	300	508
Graduate Students				
Constituency I:				
Constituency Size	6,055	6,363	6,522	6,599
Number of Valid Votes Cast	373	225	87	308
Constituency II				
Constituency Size	5,132	5,586	5,798	5,896
Number of Valid Votes Cast	222	<u>182</u>	acclamation	acclamation

3. 2005 Governing Council Election Process

I. Request for Community Input to *Election Guidelines 2005*

In September 2004, a request for comments on the election process and on the *Election Guidelines* was distributed to members of the University community, and a community meeting was arranged for October 4, 2004. Five submissions were received by the Committee. One member of the University community attended the community meeting.

Table 3 summarizes the response received from the University community since the first formal request for community input was issued in 2002.

Table 3: Community Input into Elections Guidelines

	2002	2003	2004
Number of written submissions received	7	7	5
Number of individuals attending open meeting on elections	8	4	1

II. Election Posters

A series of posters with the message '*Make a difference: Get involved with the Governing Council*' was widely distributed throughout the University community, immediately prior to the opening of nominations.

III. Nominations

Nominations opened on Monday January 17, 2005 and closed on Friday January 28, 2005. All nomination forms were available on the Governing Council website. The Call for Nominations was publicized in campus media, and nomination forms were sent to the six representative campus-wide groups: the Students' Administrative Council (SAC), the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS), the Graduate Students' Union (GSU), the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU), the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), and the University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA).

The Call for Nominations resulted in acclamations in each of the four teaching staff constituencies and in one of the graduate student constituencies. Elections were held in four of the five student constituencies.

IV. Election

The Chief Returning Officer met with the candidates in each constituency. The purpose of this meeting was to provide candidates with information about their constituency and about the voting process, and to explain the campaign rules. The candidates were required to sign a declaration stating that they, and all their campaign workers, would abide by the election guidelines.

Voting for the student constituencies was conducted on the web. Post-graduate medical students were sent mail ballots for the election in the Full-time Undergraduate Students Constituency II.

3. 2005 Governing Council Election Process (cont'd)

For the second year, campaigning was allowed during the web-based voting period. In response to requests from students, the campaign period was reduced to two weeks, including the voting period.

For web-based voting, the campaign period began at 12:01 a.m. on Monday February 21, 2005 and ended at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4. Voting began at 6:30 a.m. on Monday February 28 and ended at 5 p.m. on Friday March 4. The elections of the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) overlapped with the Governing Council election for three days. While the number of votes cast in the Full-time Undergraduate Student Constituency I (students registered in Arts and Science on the St. George campus, and those registered at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) and at the University of Toronto at Scarborough (UTSC)) increased by 2,712, the number of votes cast in Constituency II (students registered in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Music, Faculty of Nursing, OISE/UT, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, and Faculty of Physical Education and Health) declined by 373.

Results were announced to candidates at 6:00 p.m. on March 4, 2005.

V. Demerit Point System for Campaign Violations

For the fourth year, a demerit point system for campaign violations was used in the Governing Council Elections.

Table 4 summarizes the allegations of campaign violations and appeals that have been made since the introduction of the demerit point system in 2002.

Table 4: Summary of Campaign Violation Allegations and Appeals, 2002-2005

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of allegations of campaign violations	2	8	0	1
Number of appeals of election process/results	0	0	1	0
Number of appeals of technical invalidation	0	0	0	1
Number of allegations and appeals referred to Elections Committee	1	2	1	2
Number of Demerit points imposed by Elections Committee	0	0	0	1

VI. Appeal of Technical Invalidation of Nomination Papers

A student registered as a part-time undergraduate student during the nomination period appealed the invalidation of his nomination papers for the Full-time Undergraduate Student Constituency II. In support of his appeal, he noted that divisions used different definitions for 'full-time' and 'part-time' students. He was taking the equivalent of three courses, but was considered a part-time student in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. If he were registered in the Faculty of Arts and Science, he would be considered a full-time student.

The Elections Committee met as Election Overseers to consider this appeal, and upheld the decision of the Chief Returning Officer to invalidate the nomination. The Committee recommended that the eligibility rules be reviewed as part of the development of the *Election Guidelines 2006*.

3. 2005 Governing Council Election Process (cont'd)

VII. Appeal of Election Results

Following the announcement of the election results, an unsuccessful full-time undergraduate student candidate and a successful part-time student undergraduate candidate registered a complaint against a successful full-time undergraduate student candidate, alleging campaign violations. Two of the allegations were referred to the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee met as Election Overseers to consider an allegation of inappropriate postering and an allegation of misrepresentation of facts in campaign literature. The Committee ruled that the postering violation had not been proven. The candidate acknowledged that he had unintentionally misrepresented facts in his campaign materials and apologized for having done so. The Committee imposed one demerit point on the candidate.

VIII. Voter Participation

(a) Full-time Undergraduate Students

(i) Arts & Science, University of Toronto at Mississauga, University of Toronto at Scarborough

Nine students were nominated for the two seats in the Full-time Undergraduate Student constituency I: 1 from Innis College, 1 from New College, 1 from St. Michael's College, 2 from Woodsworth College, 3 from the University of Toronto at Mississauga, and 1 from the University of Toronto at Scarborough. This was a decrease of four candidates from the previous year.

The total number of eligible voters was 37,212. The total number of valid votes cast was 8,283 – an increase of 2,712 over the 5,571 valid votes cast in the 2004 election. Each voter could vote for two candidates.

(ii) Professional Faculties:

Four candidates were nominated for the two seats in the Professional Faculties constituency – 1 from Engineering, 1 from Law, 1 from Pharmacy and 1 from Medicine. This was a decrease of two candidates from the previous year.

The total number of eligible voters was 10,696. The total number of valid votes cast was 1,611, a decrease of 373 from the 2004 election. Each voter could vote for two candidates.

(b) Part-time Undergraduate Students

Three students were nominated for the two seats in the Part-time Undergraduate Student constituency; all were from Woodsworth College.

The number of eligible voters in this constituency was 7,498. The number of valid votes cast was 508, an increase of 208 over the number of valid votes cast in the 2004 election. Each voter could vote for two candidates.

3. 2005 Governing Council Election Process (cont'd)

(c) Graduate Students

Two students were nominated in Constituency I. There were 6,599 eligible voters in this constituency. The number of valid votes cast was 308. This was an increase of 221 from the 2004 election.

The candidate in Constituency II was acclaimed.

(d) Teaching Staff

- (i) **Constituency I: Faculty of Arts and Science: Constituency C:** all teaching staff members who hold their major appointments in the Departments of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Study of Religion (excluding those who are members of Constituency II or III)

The teaching staff member in this constituency was acclaimed.

- (ii) **Constituency II: University of Toronto at Mississauga**

The teaching staff member in this constituency was acclaimed.

- (iii) **Constituency VII:** all teaching staff members in the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, Rotman School of Management, Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Information Studies, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Music and the Faculty of Social Work

The teaching staff member in this constituency was acclaimed.

- (iv) **Constituency VIII: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT)**

The teaching staff member in this constituency was acclaimed.

- (v) **Constituency VI:** all teaching staff members of the Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Nursing, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Physical Education and Health

In March 2005, the teaching staff member in this constituency resigned his seat, and a by-election was held. There were two nominations for one seat. The number of eligible voters in this constituency was 171. The number of valid votes cast was 59. Each voter could vote for one candidate.

4. Draft Recommendations for Discussion by the Committee regarding the Governing Council Election Process for 2006

- (a) Continue to raise the profile of the Governing Council within the University to encourage greater participation in the Governing Council election process.
- (b) Incorporate a provision for the appointment, by the Secretary of the Governing Council, of a Deputy Chief Returning Officer to assist the Chief Returning Officer, as appropriate. This appointment would be reported for information to the University Affairs Board.

4. Draft Recommendations for Discussion by the Committee regarding the Governing Council Election Process for 2006 (cont'd)

- (c) Revise the *Election Guidelines* to reflect the ranks of Sessional Lecturer I and Sessional Lecturer II, which have been created as academic ranks for the purposes of clause 1 (1) (m) of *The University of Toronto Act*.
- (d) Review the eligibility provisions in the *Election Guidelines* to ensure that there are no anomalies, as requested by the Elections Committee as a result of the appeal of a technical invalidation.
- (e) Review the demerit point provisions in the *Election Guidelines* in light of experience to date, and determine whether these provisions should be revised.
- (f) Develop appropriate campaign regulations for use of candidate websites, communication via list serves, and other issues related to use of technology in the election period.
- (g) Identify any areas of conflict between regulations for the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) elections and those for Governing Council elections to eliminate ways in which candidates might derive an unfair advantage through joint campaigning.
- (h) Work with SAC representatives to co-ordinate the Governing Council election schedule with that of the SAC elections.