

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**REPORT NUMBER 42 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**October 26, 2005**

To the University Affairs Board,  
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the Falconer Room, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor Michael Marrus (In the Chair)  
Dr. Shari Graham Fell  
Mr. Mahadeo Sukhai

Regrets:  
Mr. P.C. Choo  
Mr. Stephen Smith

Secretariat  
Ms Cristina Oke

In Attendance:  
Dr. Anthony Gray, Chief Returning Officer

In this report, items 3 and 4 are recommended to the University Affairs Board for approval; all other items are reported for information.

**1. Reports of the Previous Meetings**

Reports Number 40 (September 20, 2005) and Number 41 (October 11, 2005) were approved.

**2. Business Arising from the Previous Meetings**

It was agreed that items arising in discussion at the meeting held on October 11, 2005 would be considered under Other Business.

**3. Terms of Reference: Revision**

Members reviewed the proposed revision to the Procedures section of the Terms of Reference concerning the requirement for an open meeting with the sole purpose of receiving input and advice from the University Community. In light of the fact that the Committee normally met in open session, and in order to enhance the Committee's effectiveness, it was proposed that the requirement be replaced by a provision to solicit input and advice from the University Community. The Committee would choose the most appropriate means of seeking such advice.

### 3. **Terms of Reference: Revision** (cont'd)

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Elections Committee dated October 18, 2005, and attached hereto as "Appendix A", be approved.

### 4. **Review of *Elections Guidelines 2006***

At the invitation of the Chair, the Chief Returning Officer reviewed the proposed Election Guidelines 2006, and highlighted the following changes.

- Pages 4-5: The definitions of "Graduate Student", "Full-Time Undergraduate Student", and "Part-Time Undergraduate Student" had been moved forward into Chapter I – Interpretation;
- Page 7: The position of Deputy Returning Officer had been created and its role defined;
- Page 8: The academic ranks of Sessional Lecturer I and Sessional Lecturer II had been included in the definition of 'Teaching Staff';
- Page 13: Election Schedule 2006: Some timelines had been adjusted to reflect recent experience.
- Page 14: The eligibility of candidates had been clarified.
- Pages 19-20: Campaigning regulations concerning the use of the internet and web had been addressed, explicitly referring to the University's policy on the *Appropriate Use of Communication and Information Technology*;
- Page 20: The balloting eligibility of Sessional Lecturers I and II, and of Part-Time Undergraduates had been refined;
- Page 26: Web-site development and hosting expenses explicitly related to elections had been distinguished from those which were not; the former were eligible for reimbursement, and the latter were not;
- Page 30: Appendix B incorporated regulations and provisions for the use of information and communications technology, treating web-sites analogously to posters where appropriate and requiring that mass emails blind copy the CRO;

#### **4. Review of *Elections Guidelines 2006* (cont'd)**

- Pages 32-33: The system of demerit points and sanctions had been revised and tightened, providing increased flexibility, improved manageability, and greater discretion for the Elections Overseers.

Members agreed with the changes proposed for Chapters I through VI of the *Election Guidelines 2006*. Members requested that Section 12 of Appendix C: Violation of Campaign Rules be revised to include the principles that would distinguish a 'serious' violation from a 'severe' violation.

Members expressed their unease with the proviso in some constituencies that elected candidates could not be from the same college, campus or faculty. The original intent of the proviso had been to ensure diversity of representation among the members of the Governing Council from those constituencies. Members were concerned about the effect that the proviso had on the nomination and election of outstanding individuals to serve on the Governing Council. It was agreed that this matter would be considered by the Committee in the development of the *Election Guidelines 2007*, as part of, or together with a broad review of constituency requirements.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the *Election Guidelines 2006* as amended, and attached hereto as "Appendix B", be approved.

#### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

No further meetings of the Committee were scheduled.

#### **6. Other Business**

Members reviewed the suggestions for enhancing the elections process that had been raised in the submissions received and the subsequent discussion at the meeting of October 11, 2005.

##### **a) Increased publicity for elections**

It was suggested that the distribution list for election posters be reviewed to ensure that the posters were being sent to off-campus sites such as the teaching hospitals and the Institute for Aerospace Studies.

It was also suggested that the Director of Student Services of the School of Graduate Studies be requested to distribute election information electronically.

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

**b) Candidate debates**

The Chief Returning Officer informed the Committee that he had discussed the possibility of candidate debates with the Vice-President, University of the Students' Administrative Council (SAC).

It was agreed that the Chief Returning Officer should request that any group hosting a candidate debate provide notice of the debate to him. It was also agreed that any debate that was organized should provide all candidates with an opportunity to participate.

**c) Information workshops on governance**

It was suggested that information workshops on governance be co-ordinated with the election cycle, and that links to such workshops be included on the website.

**d) Increased profile of governance on east and west campuses**

Members agreed that development of an appropriate three-campus governance model was an important priority for the University, but one that was beyond the authority of the Elections Committee. A review of the current definition of constituencies would likely be part of the development of the three-campus governance model.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

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Secretary

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Chair

October 27, 2005