

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

REPORT NUMBER 64 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

March 22, 2011

To the University Affairs Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 3:36 p.m. in Room 107C, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor Bill Gough (Chair)
Ms Diana Alli
Ms Shirley Hoy
Mr. Olivier Sorin

Regrets:
Professor Emeritus Michael Marrus

Secretariat:

Ms Mae-Yu Tan

In Attendance:

Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Chief Returning Officer
The Appellant

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

The Committee moved *in camera*.

Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was requested by a candidate to hear an appeal regarding the fairness of the 2011 Governing Council elections.

Introduction

The Chair welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. He explained that the Elections Committee was charged with acting as overseers of the elections process for the Governing Council and the Academic Board, hearing any disputes that arose from the process. With respect to appeals matters, the Committee was responsible for considering appeals arising from conduct of the elections. Decisions of the Election Overseers were final and were not open to review.

Appeal

The candidate alleged that, due to attacks on the candidate's election campaign, the candidate had been severely disadvantaged during the 2011 Governing Council election. In the candidate's view, the fairness of the elections had been affected. The candidate requested that one of the following remedies be applied: a) that the candidate be declared the winner in the candidate's constituency, b) that a run -off election be held in the candidate's constituency, or c) that a by-election be held in the candidate's constituency.

Decision

Members were unanimous in expressing their severe disapproval of the inappropriate actions that had been directed at the candidate's campaign.

During its deliberation, the Committee took into account the following factors.

- The election process had been run in a fair manner.
- The Chief Returning Officer had acted appropriately and fairly throughout the election process.
- The appropriate authorities had been notified of the incidents that had occurred.
- The electorate had been able to participate in the election throughout the election period.

The Committee unanimously reached the following decision.

The Committee has determined that all possible steps were taken by the Office of the Governing Council to ensure that a fair election was held. As such, the candidate's appeal is denied.

The Committee returned to open session.

Other Business

The Committee discussed means of seeking input about the elections process from the University community.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm.

Secretary
March 22, 2011

Chair