UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 69 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

June 20, 2013

To the Executive Committee,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 4:05 p.m. in the Mississauga Room, Room 131, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor Bill Gough (Chair)
Mr. P.C. Choo
Mr. Nick Kuryluk

Regrets: Mr. Michael Donnelly
            Ms Shirley Hoy

Secretariat:

Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Chief Returning Officer
Ms Mae-Yu Tan, Secretary

In Attendance:

Ms Cindy Ferencz-Hammond, Director of Governance, University of Toronto Mississauga*
*Participated by teleconference for Item 2.

In this report all items are reported to the Executive Committee for information.

1.   **Future Directions – Redistribution of Elected Governance Seats**

The Chair recalled that, following the Committee's initial consultations last Fall, there had been a pause in the Committee's work on the redistribution of elected seats on the Governing Council and the Academic Board, given a number of transitions in governance and administrative leadership. However, in order to accommodate the anticipated establishment of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health as a new Faculty, the Committee had recently considered representation of that division on the Governing Council and the Academic Board. If approved by the Governing Council at its meeting on June 27, 2013, the Committee's recommendations would allow for an interim solution with minimal change to current practice.

1.   **Future Directions – Redistribution of Elected Governance Seats** (cont'd)

The recommendations are listed below.

1) That the Dean/Director of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health serve as an *ex officio* member of the Academic Board, effective July 1, 2013;

2) That one seat for an elected teaching staff member of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health on the Academic Board be added, effective July 1, 2013; and

3) That the Dalla Lana School of Public Health continue to be included in the Faculty of Medicine constituency of Governing Council seats until such time as the Governing Council has had the opportunity to consider proposals for the redistribution of the teaching staff seats.

The Committee discussed future steps that should be taken upon resumption of its work and groups with whom the Committee might consult. Means by which consultations could occur, including the use of technological aids to facilitate greater participation, and the suitable timing of such meetings were also considered.

2.   **Report of the 2013 Governing Council and Academic Board Election Process**

The Chair thanked the Chief Returning Officer - Mr. Anwar Kazimi - and the Deputy Returning Officers - Ms Cindy Ferencz-Hammond, Ms Jan Jones, and Ms Mae-Yu Tan - for their outstanding work in having guided the complex and lengthy election processes during the past year. Mr. Kazimi then outlined key issues that had arisen from the elections process. Among the matters discussed were the following.

- The Committee's added responsibility for elections for multiple constituencies within each of six new governance bodies – the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) Campus Councils (CC), Academic Affairs Committees (AAC), and Campus Affairs Committees (CAC) – had been a significant change from previous years.
- Overall, the elections process had unfolded smoothly and without incident. The CRO had been empowered to address allegations of campaign violations, and there had been no need for the Election Overseers to consider any appeals.
- Collective responsibility for participation in the election processes needed to be more broadly communicated within the University community. Despite the multi-pronged, multi-media communications approach that had been used by the CRO, in general the number of nominations received had not greatly exceeded the number of vacant seats within each election. In particular, the nomination period for part-time undergraduate student seats had been re-opened multiple times, and two such seats on the UTSC AAC remained unfilled.
- The information sessions that had been held at UTM and UTSC for prospective candidates during the nomination period in January, 2013 had been valuable and some of those who had attended had submitted nomination forms.

2.   **Report of the 2013 Governing Council and Academic Board Election Process**
        (cont'd)

- Perhaps with greater awareness of the CCs and their Standing Committees during 2013-2014, there would be greater participation in both the nomination and voting processes. Additional communication strategies would need to be developed.
- The CRO would investigate the possibility of having post-graduate medical trainees use the existing online voting process to vote in the Governing Council election for full-time undergraduate seats for professional faculties.
- Ways in which to manage interdependence among categories within constituencies in determining the distribution of seats. The Committee agreed with the recommendation below and advised that student governors and appropriate student societies be consulted on the matter.

> In order to avoid the problem of having to wait for governors' assignments before making decisions about the non-governor student seats, it is recommended that section 11.6.(3) and 11.7.(3) of the *Guidelines* be amended so that the student governors' constituencies are not included when considering the distribution of seats of non-governors on the AACs and CACs. For the AACs, this would mean seven instead of nine student seats for four full-time undergraduate students, two graduate students, and one part-time undergraduate student; and for the CACs, there would six instead of seven student seats for four full-time undergraduate students, one graduate student, and one part-time undergraduate student (*Report of the 2013 Election Process*, p. 8).[1]

- The Committee agreed that the CRO could liaise with various University groups, including the Transitional Year Program and the Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program, to encourage participation of part-time undergraduate students in the elections process.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted.

3.   **Report of the Previous Meeting - Report Number 68 (November 15, 2012)**

Report Number 68 (November 15, 2012) was approved.

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[1] http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=9860

4.   Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the Report of the previous meeting.

5.   Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, October 10, 2013, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Chair noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, October 10, 2013.

6.   Other Business

The Chair thanked members for their service over the past year. The Committee had been charged with considering a number of substantive issues and implementing new and exciting initiatives and it had accomplished its tasks very well. The Chair expressed special thanks to Mr. Choo and Mr. Donnelly, both of whom would complete their terms on the Committee and on the Governing Council as of June 30th. He also noted that Ms Hoy would serve as Vice-Chair of the Governing Council in the coming year and therefore would no longer be an active Committee member. Members thanked the Chair for his leadership over the past year and noted that the Committee had achieved much as a team due to individual engagement and dedication.

A member commented that it would be important to brief new, incoming Committee members of the key issues that had been addressed during the past year and to prepare them for the work of the coming year. Perhaps such a briefing might be held prior to the Fall consultations.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Secretary   Chair
July 17, 2013