UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 74 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

October 1, 2015

To the Executive Committee,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the King's College Room 134, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Ms Nancy Lee (Chair)
Mr. PC Choo
Professor Sal Spadafora

Regrets:
Ms Claire Kennedy
Mr. Ridwan Olow

Secretariat:
Mr. Patrick McNeill, Secretary
Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
Ms Cindy Ferencz-Hammond, Director, Governance & Special Projects, University of Toronto
  Mississauga, Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)*
Ms Amorell Saunders-N'Daw, Director, Governance, University of Toronto Scarborough,
Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)*
  Participated by teleconference.

1. **Welcome and Overview of Mandate & Terms of Reference**

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Ms Lee provided an overview of the Committee's mandate and highlighted its areas of responsibility as outlined in its *Terms of Reference*. She noted that the Committee consisted of 5 members, with each of the estates represented, who were appointed by the Governing Council to serve on the Committee.

One of the Committee's stated area of responsibility was to review and recommend for approval the policy on elections. While there was not a separate document on "elections policy", the *Election Guidelines* and the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, each contained elements which together were considered the elections policy. She added that the *U of T Act* also spoke to a number of areas related to Governing Council membership and elections.

The *Act* had been amended in June 2015 which had repealed the requirement that no person could serve as a member of the university's Governing Council (administrative staff, alumni, teaching staff, students and Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointees) unless the person was a Canadian citizen. This change would be reflected in the 2016 documents regarding Elections.

The Chair explained that the Committee oversaw the elections process for three estates (administrative staff, student, and teaching staff members). The election of alumni governors was managed by the College of Electors. As the election overseers, the Committee would consider any appeal of a decision of the CRO as well as any appeal or other question arising from the conduct of the elections as outlined in the *Guidelines*.

Mr. Kazimi provided an overview of the 2016 elections schedule, which would start with the opening of the nomination period in January, through the campaign and voting period in mid-February, the appeals period, and ended with any hearings regarding election expenses towards the end of March. The CRO would present an Elections Report to the Committee at the May, 2016 meeting. Past reports were available on the Elections Committee website.

The Committee also discussed the approach on all three campuses that would engage students, staff and teaching staff with regard to the election process. A series of educational forums and other outreach initiatives by the CRO and DROs would be undertaken for the 2016 elections.

2.   Election Guidelines 2016 – Preliminary Report by the CRO

The Chair noted that an important function of the Committee was to review annually the *Election Guidelines* and approve any minor amendments. The draft *2016 Guidelines* would be considered by the Committee at the next meeting. Recommendations for major amendments to the *Guidelines* would be forwarded by the Committee to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Mr. Anwar Kazimi provided a preliminary report on the proposed revisions and update to the *2016 Guidelines*.

Mr. Kazimi advised there would be a new election platform (*UelecT*) for the student elections this year as a result of changes to the central information technology service. Accessible Campus Online Resource Network (ACORN) was replacing Repository of Student Information (ROSI). Mr. Kazimi and Mr. McNeill had met with representatives of the university's IT department to discuss the changes and ensure IT was aware of the importance of the meeting the deliverable dates.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made, seconded and carried

IT WAS APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and the items on it approved.

3.   Report of the Previous Meeting - Report Number 73 (June 15, 2015)

The report of the previous meeting was approved.

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: Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

6.   Other Business

Mr. Kazimi advised that by-elections had been held to fill vacant seats on the Academic Board, UTM Campus Affairs Committee and Academic Affairs Committee; and the UTSC Campus Council and Academic Affairs Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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Secretary   Chair
October 2, 2015