

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 75 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

May 24, 2016

To the Executive Committee,
University of Toronto

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in the Falconer Room, room 107C, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Ms Nancy Lee (Chair)
Mr. P.C. Choo

Ms Claire Kennedy*

Regrets:

Mr. Ridwan Olow
Professor Sal Spadafora

Secretariat:

Mr. Patrick McNeill, Secretary
Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
Ms Cindy Ferencz-Hammond, Deputy Returning Officer, University of Toronto Mississauga*
Ms Amorell Saunders-N'Daw, Deputy Returning Officer, University of Toronto Scarborough*

**Participated by teleconference.*

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

1. [Report for the 2016 Elections for the Governing Council, the Academic Board, University of Toronto Mississauga and University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Councils and their Standing Committees](#)

The Chair stated that there was considerable work related to election matters for the multiple constituencies for the Governing Council and Academic Board elections, as well, for the UTM and UTSC Campus Council and their Standing Committees. She added that, despite the complexity and multi-faceted nature of the 2016 elections, the process had run smoothly and was successfully completed.

The Chair invited the CRO to present the *2016 Elections Report*.

Mr. Kazimi stated that the contents of the Report were consistent with previous reports from the last three to four years. Mr. Kazimi recalled that as a result of an amendment to the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, the requirement of an individual in the administrative staff, alumni, teaching staff, and student estates to be a Canadian citizenship was removed. It was noted there was an

increase in the number of student candidates. This was most noticeable for Full-Time Undergraduate – Constituency I (Faculty of Arts and Science, UTM, and UTSC). The other major highlight was the use of a new student elections platform – U-elecT. The U-elecT platform, managed by the Office of the Provost, Students, had previously by many student societies across the three campuses for several years for their respective student society elections. Mr. Kazimi noted that, in comparison to previous years, the number of votes cast in several student constituencies had increased. The U-elecT platform would be used in future student elections.

Mr. Kazimi noted that following the close of the nomination period the Election Overseers were required to meet to consider two appeals : (1) invalidation of a nomination form by the CRO because the individual, for the purposes of Governing Council elections, had not met the operational definition of “administrative staff”; and, (2) invalidation of a nomination form by the CRO because the individual had not met the definition of a “Graduate Student” registered in the School of Graduate Studies to seek a Full-Time Undergraduate Student – Constituency II seat on Governing Council. In both appeals the Election Overseers upheld the decisions of the CRO and the two appeals were dismissed. This had been recorded in a report of the Election Overseers.

In the discussion, a member noted that the number of votes polled in for the administrative staff seat had decreased over the previous time when an election had been held in that estate. Mr. Kazimi replied this could be due to a fewer number of candidates participating in that estate, and the mode used by the candidates to participate in the elections. The outreach efforts to promote the election by the CRO and the DRO had remained consistent. On a matter of the use of languages other than English in campaign material, members were of the opinion that further research was required on practices adopted for other elections. This information could then be presented to the incoming Elections Committee for appropriate amendments to future Election Guidelines.

Ms Ferencz-Hammond and Ms Saunders-N’Daw reported on the outreach efforts in the promotion of elections to the UTM and UTSC Campus Councils and their Standing Committees.

The Chair thanked the CRO and the Deputy Returning Officers for their efforts.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Report of the Previous Meeting - Report Number 74 (November 18, 2015)

The report of the previous meeting was approved.

3. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

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

4. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 29, 2016, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

5. Other Business

She made special note of the period of change and transition of the elections process over the previous three years.

Members of the Committee and the CRO expressed their gratitude to the Chair for her leadership.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Secretary
May 30, 2016

Chair