

# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## COLLEGE OF ELECTORS

Minutes of the College of Electors meeting held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Croft Chapter House, University College.

### Present:

Dr. Geeta Yadav (University College) (Chair)	Ms Tracey King (OISE)
Ms Marian D. Hebb (Victoria College) (Vice-Chair)	Mr. Joel Leon (Architecture)
Mr. Dan Acheson (Woodsworth College)	Ms Rachele Levin (Forestry)
Ms Mary Ellen J. Burns (St. Michael's College)	Mr. Paul Lindblad (New College)
Ms Taleen Chouljian (Rotman)	Ms Sheila V. Neuburger (Social Work)
Ms Sandra Comisarow (Nursing)	Ms Nikoletta Papadopoulos (OISE)
Dr. Perry Cooper (Medicine)	Mr. Robert A. Patrick (Innis College)
Mr. David Drew (Kinesiology)	Mr. David F. Poirier (Engineering)
Mr. Stan Gasner (Engineering)	Dr. Peeter Poldre (Medicine)
Ms Beverley Giblon (Physical Therapy)	Ms Maureen L. Simpson (Trinity College)
Mr. Jason Glover (UTSC)	Ms Alison Stirling (Information)
Mr. Kevin Golding (UTM)	Ms Valerie Story (Victoria College)
Ms Sana Halwani (Law)	Mr. Ho K Sung (University College)
Ms Nancy E. Hill (Engineering)	Ms Joanne Thanos (Public Health)
Ms Nadine Ibrahim (Engineering)	Ms Anne Venton (OISE)
Mr. David T. Jaeger (Music)	The Honourable Bryon Wilfert (UTSC)
Ms Candice Jay (UTM)	Mr. Kenny Yu (UTSC)
Mr. Oliver Jerschow (University College)	

### Regrets:

Mr. Mike K. Amos (UTM)	Mr. Reza Hassanirad (OISE)
Ms Ann Clarke (UTSC)	Dr. Natoosha Nargaski (Dentistry)
Ms Monifa M. Colthurst (University College)	Mr. Igor Siljanovski (New College)
Ms Josephine L. Comegna (Victoria College)	Ms Elizabeth Trotter (Woodsworth College)
Mr. Gabriel Didiano (UTM)	

### Secretary:

Ms Mae-Yu Tan

### Guests:

Mr. Harvey Botting, Member, Governing Council  
Mr. David Bowden, Member, Governing Council  
Mr. Gary Goldberg, Member, Governing Council  
Mr. Nick Kuryluk, Member, Governing Council  
Mr. Andrew Szende, Member, Governing Council

Mr. Bruce Winter, Member, Governing Council  
Ms Sheree Drummond, Secretary of the Governing Council

## **1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed members to the final meeting of the 2016 - 2017 governance year. She thanked Ms Sheree Drummond, Secretary of the Governing Council, for attending the meeting and stated that her guidance of the College was greatly valued.

The Chair drew members' attention to the 2017 - 2018 Key Dates document that had been included with the meeting material. She noted that the College would be responsible for electing a new Chancellor in the coming year; Chancellor Michael Wilson would complete his second three-year term as of June 30, 2018.

The Chair asked members to complete the end-of-year online survey. Their responses would be reviewed by the Executive Committee and would assist with planning for 2017 – 2018.

The College moved *in camera*.

## **2. Report of the 2016 - 2017 Nominating Committee for the Executive Committee of the College of Electors**

The Chair informed the College of the process by which the Executive Committee was elected each year. She said that the 2016 - 2017 Nominating Committee for the Executive Committee (NC-EC) was composed of three members – Ms Mary Ellen Burns, Mr. Stan Gasner, and Ms Valerie Story. Ms Burns then presented the Committee's report.

### **i. Vice-Chair**

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

It Was Resolved

THAT Oliver Jerschow (University College) be appointed Vice-Chair of the College of Electors for 2017 – 2018.

### **ii. Executive Committee**

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

It Was Resolved

THAT Kevin Golding (UTM), Tracey King (OISE), and Alison Stirling (Information) be appointed to the Executive Committee of the College of Electors for 2017 – 2018.

The Chair congratulated the members of the 2017 - 2018 Executive Committee and thanked the 2016 – 2017 NC-EC for their work.

The College returned to Open Session.

**3. Selection of the 2017 - 2018 Nominating Committee for the Executive Committee**

The Chair reminded members of the role of the NC-EC. Ms Candice Jay, Mr. Ho Sung, and Ms Joanne Thanos volunteered to sit on the 2017 – 2018 NC-EC. The Chair thanked them for their willingness to serve in that capacity.

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – February 16, 2017**

The minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2017 were approved.

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

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

**6. Next Meeting – Thursday September 28, 2017**

The Chair reminded members that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, September 28, 2017 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**7. Election Process Debrief**

The Chair stated that it was important for the College to take time to share feedback about the alumni governor nomination and election process. She noted that some members had already provided her with their comments. All members were welcome to send written feedback to her, especially members in their final year on the College.

A number of points were made during the College's discussion, including the following.

- Overlap between the questions on the application form for alumni governors and the interview questions should be minimized, and the questions should address more of the core competencies sought in governors.
- Questions that enabled candidates to demonstrate their analytical skills and ability to handle difficult subjects would be helpful, as would more open-ended interview questions.
- With respect to scoring, perhaps the use of a scale (eg. 1 to 5), rather than binary scoring, would be a more valuable means of evaluating a candidate's performance during the interview.

- A recommendation for candidates to attend at least one meeting of a University governance body should be included in the guide to the alumni governor nomination form.
- The Nominating Committee for Alumni Governors (NC-AG) strove, through its report to the College, to provide information on the calibre of each candidate in an objective manner.
- Perhaps the NC-AG could use descriptors for each candidate, such as “falls below expectations, meets expectations, exceeds expectations”, in its report.
- An annual orientation was provided for governors, and the Secretary and Chair of the Governing Council interacted with each governor throughout their term.

## **8. Amendments to the Constitution of the College of Electors**

The Chair outlined the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the College of Electors, which had been considered by the College at its meeting on January 24, 2017. The key amendment arose from a recommendation of the College’s 2015-16 Ad Hoc Working Group concerning nominations that alumni governor applicants were required to obtain. The Working Group had recommended that the requirement for ten nominations from University of Toronto alumni be removed and that the number of letters of support included in the application package be increased from three to five. Of those, two of the letters should be provided by University alumni. As such, the alumni governor application form, rather than the Constitution of the College, would specify the requirement for letters of support. The 2018 form would be reviewed and considered for approval by the College in the Fall.

The Chair reminded members that the second amendment was the removal of the requirement for alumni governors to be Canadian citizens. That requirement in the *University of Toronto Act, 1971* had been rescinded on June 4, 2015. Accordingly, the Constitution needed to be updated. The amendments would be taken to the Executive Committee of the Governing Council at its meeting of June 13, 2017. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the revisions would then be considered for approval by the Governing Council on June 27th.

A member stated his disagreement with the removal of the requirement for Canadian citizenship. Ms Drummond provided some background information, explaining that international students (who comprised 25% of the University’s student body) had not been able to serve on the Governing Council due to the citizenship restriction. A number of governors had felt the requirement should be changed and the *University of Toronto Act* had been revised accordingly. Ms Drummond noted that, under the *Act*, the President and the Chancellor were still required to be Canadian citizens.

## **9. Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications**

The Chair stated that, since the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications by the College at its meeting in September 2016, the Working Group and its two Sub-Committees had met very regularly. At the invitation of the Chair, Ms Valerie Story, Co-Chair of the Working Group, spoke to the Report that had been included in the meeting material. She summarized previous work on communications that had been done by the College in 2011 and in 2015. The 2016-17 Working Group had extended that work and had developed recommendations and action items for the College. Ms Story then outlined the work of the two Sub-Committees, which had focused on identifying specific ways in which the College could be more effective in carrying out its mandate.

During the College's discussion, members expressed support for the Working Group's recommendations and commended those who had served on it during the past year.

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

It Was Resolved

THAT the College of Electors receive the Report of the College of Electors' Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications, dated April 2017, and support its goals; and

THAT the College of Electors approve establishment, in September 2017, of two Working Groups – a Development Working Group and a Communications Working Group – as recommended in the Report of the College of Electors' Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications, dated April 2017.

The Chair thanked Ms Story and Mr. Joel Leon for having served so ably as Co-Chairs. She expressed her gratitude to those who had volunteered on the Working Group. Their hard work would result in a strengthening of the College's functions. The Chair then thanked Mr. Dan Acheson and Mr. Leon for having volunteered to Chair the Development Working Group and the Communications Working Group in 2017 – 2018. She stated that, in the coming year, the College would move forward on matters identified in the Working Group's Report.

## **10. Reflections of Alumni Members of the Governing Council**

The Chair welcomed the alumni governors who had joined the meeting and invited them to share some of their experiences with the College. In delivering their remarks, the alumni governors spoke on a range of matters, included the following.

- The strong governance system at the University.
- The decentralized nature of the University and the effectiveness of its structure.

- The University's ability to successfully address future challenges.
- Issues considered by the University Affairs Board.
- The important role governors served in asking the administration to re-examine elements of well-developed proposals, when necessary.
- Ways in which alumni governors contributed to the University.

The Chair thanked the alumni governors for their valuable reflections and for their excellent service as ambassadors for the University.

#### **11. Other Business**

The Chair thanked members of the Executive Committee - Ms Marian Hebb (Vice-Chair), Ms Ann Clarke, Mr. Stan Gasner, and Ms Candice Jay - for having supported her during her first year as Chair of the College. They had given generously of their time and assistance. She noted that Ms Hebb and Mr. Gasner would complete their final year on the College as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair also thanked all members of the College for their dedication, and she acknowledged the other members who would end their service on the College this year.

Ms Mary Ellen Burns (St. Michael's)  
Ms Monifa Colthurst (University College)  
Mr. Gabriel Didiano (UTM)  
Mr. David Jaeger (Music)  
Mr. Andrew Manis (St. Michael's)  
Ms Valerie Story (Victoria)  
Mr. Kenny Yu (UTSC)

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chair

July 27, 2017