

## Report of the Governing Council Election Process 2007

### 1. Introduction

This report is the first step in the development of the *Election Guidelines* for 2008. The purpose of the report is to provide factual information about the 2007 Governing Council election and to indicate areas for discussion and possible revision in the *Guidelines*.

### 2. Statistical Information about the 2007 Governing Council Election

In January 2007, elections were required for 13 seats on the Governing Council, with terms beginning July 1, 2007. There were elections for four teaching staff seats, eight student seats, and one administrative staff seat. Voting was necessary in one teaching staff constituency, four student constituencies, and in the single administrative staff constituency.

Table 0 summarizes the details of the nominations received in each constituency.

**Table 0: Summary of Nominations for the Governing Council Elections, 2007**

Constituency	# of seats available	# of nominations received	# of times nominations were re-opened
<b>Teaching Staff</b>			
Constituency IC (Faculty of Arts and Science)	1	2	0
Constituency IV (Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering)	1	1	0
Constituency V (Faculty of Medicine)	2	2	1
<b>Full-time Undergraduate Students</b>			
Constituency I (Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC)	2	7 (one withdrew)	0
Constituency II (Professional Faculties)	2	2	0
<b>Part-time Undergraduate Students</b>	2	2	0
<b>Graduate Students</b>			
Constituency I	1	3	0
Constituency II	1	3	0
<b>Administrative Staff</b>	1	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>

Table 1 summarizes the details of the voting in each constituency in the 2007 Governing Council Elections.

**Table 1: Summary of Voting in the Governing Council Elections, 2007**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats</b>	<b># of seats acclaimed</b>	<b># of seats elected</b>	<b># in Constituency</b>	<b># of valid votes cast</b>	<b># of voters</b>	<b>% voting</b>
<b>Administrative Staff</b>	1	0	1	6,063	1,051	1051	17.3%
<b>Teaching Staff</b>							
Constituency IC (Faculty of Arts and Science)	1	0	1	319	57	57	17.9%
Constituency IV (Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering)	1	1					
Constituency V (Faculty of Medicine)	2	2					
<b>Full-time Undergraduate Students</b>							
Constituency I (Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC)	2	0	2	40,808	5,083	3078	7.5%
Constituency II (Professional Faculties)	2	2					
<b>Part-Time Undergraduate Students</b>	2	2					
<b>Graduate Students</b>							
Constituency I	1	0	1	6,271	317	317	5.1%
Constituency II	1	0	1	5,985	144	144	2.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>				

Table 2 shows the size of each student constituency and the number of valid votes cast within each constituency over the past five years.

**Table 2: Voting Results from Student Constituencies**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Full-Time Undergraduate Students</b>					
<b>Constituency I:</b>					
Constituency Size	<i>25,489</i>	<i>34,390</i>	<i>37,212</i>	<i>40,460</i>	<i>40,808</i>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	4,900	5,571	8,283	3,399	5,083
<b>Constituency II</b>					
Constituency Size	<i>10,099</i>	<i>10,561</i>	<i>10,696</i>	<i>11,700</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	1,899	1,984	1,611	940	Acclamation
<b>Part-Time Undergraduate Students</b>					
Constituency Size	<i>11,461</i>	<i>7,499</i>	<i>7,498</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	995	300	508	Acclamation	Acclamation
<b>Graduate Students</b>					
<b>Constituency I:</b>					
Constituency Size	<i>6,363</i>	<i>6,522</i>	<i>6,599</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>6,271</i>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	225	87	308	Acclamation	317
<b>Constituency II</b>					
Constituency Size	<i>5,586</i>	<i>5,798</i>	<i>5,896</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>5,985</i>
Number of Valid Votes Cast	182	Acclamation	Acclamation	Acclamation	144

### 3. Election Process 2007

#### I. Changes to *Election Guidelines 2006*

In October 2006, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Dr. Anthony Gray, prepared a revised *Election Guidelines 2007* that took into account the suggestions from the community contained in the submissions received by the Elections Committee. Suggestions that arose from the Committee's discussion of the report of the 2006 Elections Process at its October 10, 2006 meeting were also incorporated, as were changes resulting from new policies and legislation and from experience with the *Election Guidelines 2006*.

In past years, a meeting of the University community had been held to obtain comments on the election process and the *Election Guidelines*. This election year, no meeting was required by the Elections Committee. Instead, a memo soliciting comments on the Governing Council election process was sent to the University community, and three written submissions were received.

Table 3 summarizes the response received from the University community since the first formal request for community input was issued in 2002.

**Table 3: Community Input into Elections Guidelines**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of written submissions received	7	7	5	5	3
Number of individuals attending open meeting on elections	8	4	1	3	N/A

#### II. Election Posters

A series of posters with the message '*Make a difference: Get involved with the Governing Council*' was widely distributed throughout the University community, immediately prior to the opening of nominations. These posters were redesigned for the 2007 Governing Council election (though their general content was not changed).

#### III. Nominations

Nominations opened on Monday January 8, 2007 and closed on Friday January 26, 2007. (The nomination period lasted one week longer in 2007 than it did in 2006.) All nomination forms were available electronically on the Governing Council website and in paper form from the Governing Council Office and the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) and the University of Toronto at Scarborough (UTSC) Registrar's Offices. The Call for Nominations was publicized in campus media (*the Bulletin, the Varsity, the Underground, and the Medium*), and was sent to the six representative campus-wide groups: the Students' Administrative Council (SAC), the Association of Part-time

### 3. Election Process 2007 (cont'd)

#### III. Nominations (cont'd)

Undergraduate Students (APUS), the Graduate Students' Union (GSU), the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU), the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), and the University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA).

#### IV. Election

The Call for Nominations resulted in acclamations in three constituencies (one of the three teaching staff constituencies and two of the five student constituencies). The nominations period had to be reopened once in one of the teaching staff constituencies.

The CRO met with the candidates in each voting student constituency. The purpose of the meeting was to provide candidates with information about their constituency and about the voting process, and to explain the campaign rules. It was made clear that each candidate's signature on the nomination form would indicate his/her agreement to be bound by the rules of the election guidelines.

Each of the candidates in Teaching Staff Constituency IC and the Administrative Staff Constituency received information about the relevant constituency, the voting process, and the election rules. By signing the nomination form, each candidate agreed to be bound by those rules.

Voting for the student constituencies was conducted on the web through the University's Repository of Student Information (ROSI) system. Voting in the administrative and teaching staff constituencies was conducted through the traditional mail.

The campaign period for ROSI-based elections ran for two weeks, from February 26, 2007, to March 9, 2007 and included the voting period (for the fourth year). There was a system-wide access problem with the ROSI elections web-page for a few hours on the first day of the voting period, however, it was quickly resolved. A few other technical problems were encountered by some students during the voting period, and the Chief Returning Officer addressed the matters with the Student Information Systems staff.

Campaigning and voting in the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) elections coincided with the Governing Council campaign period. However, SAC conducted a paper-ballot election, rather than a ROSI-based election as they had done in the past<sup>1</sup>

The results of the Governing Council elections for the student constituencies were announced to candidates at 6:00 p.m. on March 9, 2007. Counting of the administrative and teaching staff Constituency IC ballots took place on March 23, 2007, with results released to candidates that day.

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<sup>1</sup> Since simultaneous electronic elections for SAC and Governing Council positions can assist to increase voter participation, such coordination efforts would be beneficial in the future.

### 3. Election Process 2007 (cont'd)

#### V. Campaign Violations

This was the second year that a new system for considering and handling violations of campaign rules was used<sup>2</sup>. The system, which is described in the *Election Guidelines, 2007, Appendix C*, divides violations broadly into two categories - *serious* and *severe*. A candidate found to have committed two *serious* or one *severe* violation could, at the discretion of the Elections Overseers, be disqualified from the election.

In the 2007 Governing Council election, the CRO received 5 formal complaints, each of which led to an investigation by the CRO. (The CRO received 1 additional informal complaint not leading to an investigation.)

The Elections Overseers were called once, on March 8, 2007, to hear the complaints. As a result of the hearing, one candidate in the Full-Time Undergraduate Constituency I was found to have committed two *serious* violations of the campaign rules. The Committee used its discretion not to disqualify the candidate from the election and applied alternate sanctions. A second candidate in the Full-Time Undergraduate Constituency I was found to have committed one *serious* violation of the campaign rules. In the case of a third candidate in the Full-Time Undergraduate Constituency I, the Committee determined that no violation of the *Election Guidelines, 2007* had occurred. The details of the violations and the names of the offenders were published on the University's elections website for the remainder of the voting period (approximately 24 hours). Complete information about the complaints, investigations, hearings, and sanctions can be found in Report Number 47 of the Elections Committee.

Table 4 summarizes the allegations of campaign violations and appeals that have been made since 2002. Note that between 2002 and 2005 the demerit point system was in force and in 2006 it was replaced by the present system of *serious* and *severe* violations.

**Table 4: Summary of Campaign Violation Allegations and Appeals, 2002-2007**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of allegations of campaign violations	2	8	0	1	10	6
Number of appeals of election process/results	0	0	1	0	0	0
Number of appeals of technical invalidation	0	0	0	1	0	0
Number of allegations and appeals referred to Elections Committee	1	2	1	2	6	5
Number of Demerit points imposed by Elections Committee or, after 2005, number of <i>serious/severe</i> violations found	0	0	0	1	3/0	3/0

<sup>2</sup> The system was first implemented for the 2006 Governing Council elections.

**4. Draft Recommendations for Discussion by the Committee Regarding the Governing Council Election Process for 2008**

- (a) Review campaigning in residences with a view to determining whether such campaigning is appropriate.
- (b) Determine if three serious violations by a candidate should be considered as grounds for immediate disqualification.
- (c) Gather ideas and comments from the University community on the election process immediately following the end of the election period in the spring, rather than in the fall.