

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**REPORT NUMBER 36 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**September 24, 2004**

To the University Affairs Board,  
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on September 24, 2004 at 11:10 a.m. in the Falconer Room, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor Michael R. Marrus (In the Chair)  
Mr. P. C. Choo  
Mr. Stefan A. Neata  
Mr. Stephen C. Smith

Regrets:  
Dr. Alice Dong

Secretariat:  
Ms. Cristina Oke, Chief Returning Officer

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming members to the first meeting of the Committee, and providing an overview of the Committee's responsibilities.

**1. Report of the Previous Meeting**

Report Number 35 of the meeting of March 23, 2004 was approved.

**2. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

There was no business arising.

**3. Draft Report of the Governing Council Election Process 2004**

Members reviewed the *Draft Report of the Governing Council Election Process 2004 (Report)* that had been prepared by the Chief Returning Officer. Members asked for clarification of the difference, in some constituencies, between the number of valid votes cast and number of voters in Table 1 of the report. The Chief Returning Officer explained that the differences were found in constituencies in which two candidates were elected. Some voters chose to vote only for one candidate, while others voted for two candidates.

Members reviewed the recommendations contained in the *Report*. It was noted that student members of the Governing Council were working to raise the profile of the work of the Council throughout the year. A member asked about the advantage of coordinating the Governing Council elections and the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) elections. Was it more important to have a large number of voters or a smaller number of informed voters?

A member suggested that the campaign period for web-based voting be reduced to take into account the extension of the campaign period to the close of voting.

#### **4. Community Input for 2005 Elections Process**

Members reviewed the draft memorandum to the University community requesting comments on the Governing Council election process and *Election Guidelines* for 2005. No changes were suggested.

A member asked the Chief Returning Officer to explore the option of organizing a candidates' debate during the election period.

#### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair reminded members that the next meeting was scheduled to be an open meeting for the purposes of receiving community input for the 2005 Governing Council election process. It would take place in the Croft Chapter House, University College, on Monday, October 4, 2004.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Recording Secretary

September 28, 2004

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Chair

## Report of the Governing Council Election Process 2004

### 1. Introduction

This report is the first step in the development of the *Election Guidelines* for 2005. The purpose of the report is to provide factual information about the previous election, and to indicate areas of possible revisions in the *Guidelines* for the next election year.

### 2. Statistical Information about the 2004 Governing Council Election

In 2004, elections were required for 13 seats on the Governing Council, with terms beginning July 1, 2004. There were elections for four teaching staff, 1 administrative staff, and eight students. Voting was necessary in two teaching staff constituencies, the administrative staff constituency, and four student constituencies.

Table 1 summarizes the details of the 2004 Governing Council Election.

**Table 1**

Constituency	# of positions available	# of seats acclaimed	# of seats elected	# in Constituency	# of valid votes cast	Number of voters	% voting
Teaching Staff							
Arts and Science	1		1	279	92	92	33%
Applied Science and Engineering	1	1					
Medicine	2		2	5,335	1,226	669	13%
Administrative Staff	1		1	5,690	1,176	1,176	21%
Full-time Undergraduate Students							
Constituency I: [Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC]	2		2	34,398	5,571	3,346	10%
Constituency II: Professional Faculties	2		2	10,561	1,984	1,202	11%
Part-Time Undergraduate Students	2		2	7,499	300	183	2%
Graduate Students							
Constituency I	1		1	6,522	87	87	1%
Constituency II	1	1					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>				

### 3. 2004 Governing Council Election Process

#### I. Request for Community Input to *Election Guidelines 2004*

In September 2003, a request for comments on the election process and on the *Election Guidelines* was distributed to members of the University community, and a community meeting was arranged for October 3, 2003. A total of seven submissions were received by the Committee. Four members of the University community attended the community meeting. A number of the suggestions received were incorporated into the *Election Guidelines 2004*.

#### II. Election Posters

A new 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. Once again, a number of candidates commented that the posters had been a deciding factor in their decision to stand for election to the Governing Council.

#### III. Nominations

Nominations opened on Monday January 19, 2004 and closed on Friday January 30, 2004. All nomination forms were available on the Governing Council web-site. The Call for Nominations was publicized in campus media, and nomination forms were sent to the representative campus-wide groups: the Students' Administrative Council (SAC), the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS), the Graduate Students' Union (GSU), the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), and the University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA).

The Call for Nominations resulted in acclamations in one of the three teaching staff constituencies and in one of the graduate student constituencies. Elections were held in two teaching staff constituencies, the administrative staff constituency, and four of the five student constituencies.

#### IV. Election

The Chief Returning Officer met with candidates in each constituency. The purpose of this meeting was to provide candidates with information about their constituency and about the voting process, and to explain the campaign rules. The candidates were required to sign a declaration stating that they, and all their campaign workers, would abide by the election guidelines.

Voting for teaching staff and for administrative staff was conducted by mail ballot. Post-graduate medical students were sent mail ballots for the election in the Full-time Undergraduate Constituency II. Voting for the four student constituencies was conducted on the web. For the first time, campaigning was allowed during the web-based voting period.

For web-based voting, the campaign period began at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday February 24, 2004 and ended at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 12. Voting began at 6:30 a.m. on Monday March 10 and ended at 5 p.m. on Friday March 12. Although the Chief Returning Officer had worked with executives of the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) to coordinate the schedules of the Governing Council and SAC web-based elections, it was not possible for the elections to overlap. Despite this lack of overlap, the number of votes cast by full-time undergraduate students in the Governing Council elections increased in 2004.

Results were announced to candidates at 6:00 p.m. on March 12.

### 3. 2004 Governing Council Election Process (cont'd)

#### V. Demerit Point System for Campaign Violations

For the third year, a demerit point system for campaign violations was used in the Governing Council Elections. For the first time, no allegations of campaign violations were received during the election period.

#### VI. Appeal of Election Results

One of the full-time undergraduate student candidates in Constituency I appealed the results of the election, citing an alleged violation of the *Election Guidelines* by the Chief Returning Officer. In response to a request from the web team of the Student Information Systems (SIS), citing security concerns, the Chief Returning Officer had removed the url from candidates' statements on ROSI. The url's had remained in the candidate statements posted on the Governing Council web-site and published in campus media.

The Elections Committee met as Election Overseers to consider this appeal, and ruled that there had been no violation of the *Elections Guidelines*. In their view, the Chief Returning Officer had acted within her authority in making the choice to remove the links to email and web addresses.

The Committee recommended that continued attention to electronic campaigning issues be given in future *Guidelines*.

#### VII. Voter Participation

##### (a) Administrative Staff

Five administrative staff members were nominated for the one available seat. The total number of eligible voters was 5,690. The number of valid votes cast was 1,176, an increase of 45 over the 1,131 valid votes cast in the 2003 election.

##### (b) Full-time Undergraduate Students

###### (ii) Arts & Science, University of Toronto at Mississauga, University of Toronto at Scarborough

Thirteen students were nominated for the two seats in the full-time undergraduate student constituency I: 1 from New College, 1 from St. Michael's College, 1 from Trinity College, 4 from University College, 2 from Victoria College, 1 from Woodsworth College, 1 from the Transitional Year Program, 1 from the University of Toronto at Mississauga, and 1 from the University of Toronto at Scarborough. This was an increase of six candidates from the previous year. The total number of eligible voters was 34,398. The total number of valid votes cast was 5,571 – an increase of 671 over the 4,900 valid votes cast in the 2003 election. Each voter could vote for two candidates.

###### (ii) Professional Faculties:

Six candidates were nominated for the two seats in the Professional Faculties constituency – 4 from Engineering, 1 from Law and 1 from Medicine. The total number of eligible voters was 10,561. The total number of valid votes cast was 1,984, an increase of 185 over the 2003 election. Each voter could vote for two candidates.

### 3. 2004 Governing Council Election Process (cont'd)

#### VII. Voter Participation (cont'd)

##### (c) Part-time Undergraduate Students

Three students were nominated for the two seats in the part-time undergraduate student constituency; all were from Woodsworth College. The number of eligible voters in this constituency was 7,499. The number of valid votes cast was 300. Each voter could vote for two candidates.

##### (d) Graduate Students

Two students were nominated in Constituency I. There were 6,522 eligible voters in this constituency. The number of valid votes cast was 87. This was a decrease of 138 from the 2003 election.

The candidate in Constituency II was acclaimed.

##### (e) Teaching Staff

- (i) **Faculty of Arts and Science: Constituency C** (all teaching staff members who hold their major appointments in the Departments of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics and Zoology)

Two teaching staff members were nominated in this constituency – one from the Department of Geology and one from the Department of Mathematics. The number of eligible voters in this constituency was 279. The number of valid votes cast was 92.

- (ii) **Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering**  
The teaching staff member in this constituency was acclaimed.

- (iii) **Faculty of Medicine**  
There were five nominations for two seats. The number of eligible voters in this constituency was 5,335. The number of valid votes cast was 1,226. Each voter could vote for two candidates.

### 4. Draft Recommendations for Discussion by the Committee regarding the Governing Council Election Process for 2005

- (a) Continue to raise the profile of the Governing Council within the University to encourage greater participation in the Governing Council election process.
- (b) Review the *Election Guidelines* to ensure that there are no provisions that contravene current privacy legislation, eg provision of mailing labels to candidates; availability of student voters' lists with student numbers, etc.
- (c) Ensure that regulations concerning candidate eligibility and voter eligibility are consistent for those who are in more than one constituency (eg. administrative staff/student; teaching staff/student).

### 4. Draft Recommendations for Discussion by the Committee regarding the Governing Council Election Process for 2005 (cont'd)

- (d) Develop appropriate campaign regulations for use of candidate web-sites, communication via list serves, and other issues related to use of technology in the election period.
- (e) Identify areas of conflict between regulations for the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) elections and those for Governing Council elections to eliminate ways in which candidates might derive an unfair advantage through joint campaigning.
- (f) Work with SAC representatives to co-ordinate the Governing Council election schedule with that of SAC.