

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

REPORT NUMBER 41 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

October 11, 2005

To the University Affairs Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor Michael Marrus (In the Chair)
Mr. P.C. Choo
Dr. Shari Graham Fell
Mr. Stephen Smith
Mr. Mahadeo Sukhai

Secretariat
Ms Cristina Oke

In Attendance:
Dr. Anthony Gray, Chief Returning Officer
Mr. David Bateman, Treasurer, Graduate Students' Union
Mr. Ewen Chen, member, Academic Board
Ms Estafania Toledo, Vice-President University Affairs, Students' Administrative Council

In this report, all items are reported to the University Affairs Board for information.

Introductory Remarks

The Chair welcomed members of the community to the public meeting for community input into the elections process.

1. Review of Submissions Received

The Committee reviewed each of the five submissions that had been received, and considered the suggestions that had been made regarding the elections process.

1. **Review of Submissions Received** (cont'd)

a) **Increased publicity for elections**

It was noted that publicity for elections currently included the following:

Call for Nominations for Governing Council Elections

- Publication in the campus media: *Bulletin, Varsity, Newspaper, Medium and Underground* ;
- Notice and links to nomination forms on the Governing Council Elections website;
- Distribution with links to the Governing Council website to the following groups:
 - members of the Governing Council and its Boards and Committees;
 - Presidents of the Association of part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS), Students' Administrative Council (SAC), Graduate Students' Union (GSU), University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA), United Steel Workers of America (USWA);
 - Principals, Deans, Academic Directors and Chairs (PDAD&C);
 - Professionals, Managers and Confidentials;
 - Student societies.

Candidates Statements and Notice of Voting Process and Schedule

- Publication in the campus media: *Bulletin, Varsity, Newspaper, Medium and Underground* ;
- Notice and links to candidate statements and election information on the Governing Council Elections website;
- Distribution with links to the Governing Council website to the following groups:
 - members of the Governing Council and its Boards and Committees;
 - Presidents of APUS, SAC, GSU, UTFA, USWA;
 - PDAD&C;
 - Professionals, Managers and Confidentials;
 - Student societies.

Other points raised in the discussion included:

- a suggestion that outreach initiatives could be made to students in teaching hospitals who were not aware of governance;
- a recommendation to continue the poster campaign to publicize governance: it had been effective in encouraging people to become candidates.

1. **Review of Submissions Received (cont'd)**

b) Candidate Debates

It was noted that the Chief Returning Officer did not have the resources available to organize candidate debates.

It was suggested that SAC could be asked to organize debates for the student candidates for Governing Council. This suggestion was taken under advisement by the Chief Returning Officer.

It was suggested that video conferencing technology be used to broadcast candidate debates on the three campuses.

c) Information Workshops on Governance

It was noted that the Secretary of the Governing Council, when invited, met with Faculty Councils and other interested groups on each of the three campuses.

d) Increased profile of governance on the east and west campuses

Members agreed that their responsibilities extended to promoting good electoral processes on all three campuses of the University. A member asked if elections were viewed differently on each campus. It was suggested that the Elections Committee explore the possibility of redefining the full-time undergraduate student constituencies for purposes of Governing Council elections to provide specific seats for UTM and UTSC.

e) Canadian Citizenship Requirement

It was noted that the requirement for members of the Governing Council to be Canadian citizens had been included in the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*. A resolution had been passed by the Governing Council in 1986 to request the removal of the citizenship requirement for membership on Governing Council from the *Act* at a time deemed appropriate by the Governing Council.

f) Complaints about Elections Process

Members reviewed a submission containing a number of complaints about the 2005 elections process. It was the view of the Committee that the complaints described in the submission had no factual basis.

2. Other Business

(a) Review of Draft Revised Section of Election Guidelines on Violation of Campaign Rules

Members reviewed the initial draft of the revised section on Violation of Campaign Rules. It was agreed that the distinction between serious and severe infractions would be reviewed and revised.

(b) Agenda Items for meeting of October 26, 2005

It was agreed that members would review the Committee's Terms of Reference with respect to the requirement for an open meeting to receive community advice and input on the election process.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Secretary

Chair

October 17, 2005