

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**REPORT NUMBER 46 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**October 26, 2006**

To the University Affairs Board,  
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Thursday, October 26, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in the Falconer Room, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Mr. Stephen Smith (In the Chair)  
Mr. P.C. Choo  
Mr. Robin Goodfellow  
Professor William Gough  
Dr. Shari Graham Fell

Secretariat  
Ms Cristina Oke

In Attendance:  
Dr. Anthony Gray, Chief Returning Officer

In this report, item 3 is recommended to the University Affairs Board for approval; all other items are reported for information.

**1. Report of the Previous Meeting**

Report Number 45 of the meeting held on October 10, 2006 was approved.

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

There was no business arising from the Report.

**3. Review of *Elections Guidelines 2007***

At the invitation of the Chair, the Chief Returning Officer reviewed the proposed Election Guidelines 2007, and highlighted the following changes.

- Page 7: The clause that limited the Secretary of the Governing Council's power to appoint Deputy Returning Officers as necessary had been revised;
- Page 7: Chapter III, Section 11 had been clarified, explicitly prohibiting members of the Elections Committee who were "standing for elections, involved in ... election campaign[s] or endorsing ... candidate[s] for election" from acting as Elections Overseers (with provision);
- Pages 15—17: The schedule and guidelines had been modified to prohibit nominees from editing or altering their nomination forms after the nomination period closed;

### 3. Review of *Elections Guidelines 2007* (cont'd)

- Page 16: The verification process had been clarified, expressly allowing good faith errors in the names of a nominee's nominators to be corrected;
- Page 16: The Guidelines now required that a statement of purpose accompany the request for personal contact information on the nomination forms;
- Pages 16: A nominee's signature on his or her nomination form signified that the candidate and all those who worked for him or her agreed to abide by the provisions of the *Election Guidelines, 2007*;
- Pages 18, 25 and 31: The language around the appeals process had been clarified and tightened;
- Page 19: The distinction in the *Guidelines* between 'expectations' and 'requirements' had been made explicit;
- Page 20: The 'tangible benefits' clauses in the sections on campaign rules had been updated to include privileged email lists and contact information;
- Page 20: Ballots not provided by the CRO, in particular ballots photocopied or produced by the candidates themselves, had been expressly prohibited;
- Pages 22 and 24: The provision for a third election — in the event that a second election after a tied first election was also tied — had been removed;
- Page 30: The campaign rules around the placement of posters and the use of email lists had been updated and clarified;
- Page 32: The sense in which the details and sanction of an offence, in the event that the Overseers had determined that one occurred, were published had been clarified;
- Page 33: The list of examples of *serious* and *severe* campaign offences had been expanded to include last year's experience.

The following matters arose in the discussion of the *Guidelines*.

- Members questioned the proviso in the full-time undergraduate student constituencies that elected candidates could not be from the same college, campus or faculty. Dr. Gray explained that the proviso resulted from the principle of diversity of representation on the Governing Council. The proviso provided an opportunity for representation from a variety of colleges, campuses and faculties, and avoided over-representation of a division.
- A member suggested that the proposed requirement that no member of the Elections Committee who was standing for election, involved in an election campaign or endorsing a candidate for election could act as an Election Overseer be amended to avoid the possibility of not having quorum at a meeting of the Election Overseers.

### 3. Review of *Elections Guidelines 2007* (cont'd)

- At the request of members, Dr. Gray stated that the addition, in Chapter VI (b) (ii), of privileged email lists and other contact information to the examples of tangible benefits that candidates were not allowed to use in their campaign was based on the following principles:
  - no candidate should benefit from information or material to which they have access not by virtue of their candidacy in the election, but by virtue of their membership in (or affiliation with) some organization or group; and
  - information should not be used for purposes other than that for which it had been collected.
- A member commented that, in his view, the current practice of not providing candidates with voters' addresses or other contact information was restrictive, and made it difficult for candidates to communicate with voters in their constituency.
- A member asked whether it would be possible for a robust and full-featured elections campaign website to be created as part of the Governing Council elections process. Dr. Gray highlighted some of the challenges such a website would create, including who would be responsible for creating and maintaining the website.
- A member spoke in favour of the current provisions, which included a 100-word candidate statement that was published on the elections website, on the ballot, and in the campus media. The member believed that it was the responsibility of a candidate to explore creative ways of reaching members of their constituency.

Members suggested a few minor revisions to the draft *Guidelines* for clarification.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the *Election Guidelines 2007* as amended, and attached hereto as "Appendix A", be approved.

### 5. Date of Next Meeting

No further meetings of the Committee were scheduled.

### 6. Other Business

A member asked what the process would be concerning the review of the definition of the full-time undergraduate constituencies that was requested by the Committee at the October 10 meeting. On behalf of the Chair, the Committee Secretary undertook to prepare a letter for the appropriate University officials, advising them of the Committee's concerns about the size of these constituencies.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

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Secretary  
November 2, 2006

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Chair