

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**REPORT NUMBER 52 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**October 14, 2008**

To the University Affairs Board,  
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Mr. Stephen Smith (In the Chair)  
Mr. P.C. Choo  
Professor Ronald H. Kluger  
Mr. Olivier Sorin

Regrets:  
Mr. Gary P. Mooney

Secretariat:  
Ms Mae-Yu Tan

In Attendance:  
Ms Nancy Smart, 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. Approval of the Report of the Previous Meeting**

Report Number 51 (September 18, 2008) was approved.

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

**a) Student Newspapers**

The Chair said that during a discussion of the elections budget and the cost of advertising at the previous meeting, a member had asked whether the University administration provided funding to student newspapers. Mr. Jim Delaney, the Director of the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students, had informed the Secretariat that no base funding was provided to student papers by the central administration. However, they did provide office space. He also noted that some papers might receive funding from local student governments who collected fees from students. On a separate matter, the Chair reported that *the Varsity* newspaper had confirmed that it posted each issue of its paper on its website.

## **2. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting (cont'd)**

### **b) Memo to the Task Force on University Governance**

The Chair commented that the Committee had generated a number of valuable suggestions at its last meeting. In order to communicate some of the issues and recommendations that the Committee had discussed, a memorandum to the Task Force on University Governance had been drafted. Members reviewed the memorandum, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix "A", providing suggestions for revisions.

### **3. Election Guidelines 2009**

The Chair stated that the Elections Committee recommended approval of the *Election Guidelines* to the University Affairs Board (UAB). The *Election Guidelines 2009* would be considered for approval at the UAB meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at 4:30 pm.

Invited to highlight the changes to the *Election Guidelines*, Ms Nancy Smart, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), informed members that the *Guidelines* had been significantly reformatted for ease of use. The section containing an introduction to the Governing Council had been made more prominent, strengthening the focus on the responsibilities of governors. This was followed by the section on the authority for the elections, which had been revised for clarity. Information on the elections process had been reorganized by constituency, with the intent that prospective candidates would only need to review the relevant portion of the *Guidelines* and the common introductory portions. That is, separate sections for administrative staff, teaching staff, and students had been created.

Ms Smart acknowledged the extensive contributions of Ms Cristina Oke, a past Secretary to the Committee, to the revised *Guidelines*. Members praised the improved *Guidelines* and raised the following matters in discussion.

#### **(a) Campaigning Regulations**

Members had varying opinions on the extent to which candidates' use of electronic media for campaigning should be limited and monitored for violations. The Committee wanted to ensure that no candidate would benefit unfairly from his or her access to electronic mailing addresses. At the same time, it was important to work towards increasing awareness of Governing Council elections, a goal that could perhaps be achieved through candidates' campaigns. Recognizing the CRO's limited resources, the Committee ultimately agreed to remove the requirement that candidates "...copy the CRO on all campaign email messages sent to electronic mailing lists or listserves" (*Elections Guidelines 2008*, p. 30, Appendix B, 7.) It was expected that candidates would not distribute communications that might reasonably be considered libelous by the CRO. However, the requirement that candidates not use resources to which they had access by virtue of their membership in or affiliation with any University organization (including privileged email lists) was retained.

Upon the recommendation of a member, the Committee agreed to insert in the *2009 Guidelines* the following statement that explicitly outlined a principle for campaigning within the teaching and administrative staff constituencies.

### 3. *Election Guidelines 2009* (cont'd)

#### (a) **Campaigning Regulations** (cont'd)

All candidates must be allowed reasonable access to members of their constituency during the campaign period. Such access shall not be unreasonably withheld.

#### (b) **Election Expenses Spending Limits**

The CRO noted that a member had suggested previously that the election expense spending limit and the amount of reimbursement for administrative staff be increased. In her view, such an increase was not warranted, as it was reasonable to expect decreased expenses in the future, given technological developments. As well, variations in the permitted election cost per person already existed between constituencies. The CRO recommended that no changes be made to the election expenses section of the *Guidelines* and members of the Committee unanimously agreed.

#### (c) **Election Overseers**

A member stated that, in his view, an existing general restriction on Committee members was somewhat discriminatory. Those Committee members who participated in an election campaign were not permitted to serve as members of the Election Overseers. The member's proposed revision, which would only prevent a member from hearing cases relevant to his or her own constituency, was agreed to by the Committee. The revised text is provided below (*Elections Guidelines 2009*, p. 9, section 2d., Elections Committee).

A member of the Elections Committee, who is standing for election, involved in an election campaign, or endorsing a candidate for election, may act as an Election Overseer provided he or she is not called upon to consider a matter arising from or pertaining to his or her own constituency.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the *Election Guidelines 2009* as amended, and attached hereto as "Appendix B", be approved.

### 4. **Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair reminded members that no further meetings of the Committee were scheduled for the 2008-2009 year. However, the Committee might be called to meet as the Election Overseers during the 2009 election period.

### 5. **Other Business**

Ms Smart stated that the Secretariat was interested in exploring the increased use of technological tools as an alternative to the use of campus newspapers for advertising Governing Council elections. Such a development might serve as an effective means in reducing the amount of the election expenses and using limited resources more effectively to cover all election-related responsibilities appropriately. One member spoke in favour of using both newspaper and

**5. Other Business (cont'd)**

electronic advertisements.

A member recalled that, in the past, the Secretariat had provided, at cost, administrative staff candidates with business address mailing labels so that they could contact members in their constituency for campaigning purposes. Ms Smart suggested that it would be possible to instead provide candidates with an electronic list of administrative staff email addresses at no cost. Members were in favour of such a change.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

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Secretary  
October 18, 2008

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Chair