

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 75 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

November 18, 2015

To the Executive Committee,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the Falconer Room 107C, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Ms Nancy Lee (Chair)
Mr. PC Choo
Ms Claire Kennedy*

Mr. Ridwan Olow
Professor Salvatore Spadafora

Secretariat:

Mr. Patrick McNeill, Secretary

Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

Ms Cindy Ferencz-Hammond, Director, Governance & Special Projects, University of Toronto
Mississauga *

Ms Amorell Saunders-N'Daw, Director, Governance, University of Toronto Scarborough*
*Participated by teleconference.

1. Election Guidelines 2016

The Chair stated that the Elections Committee was responsible for annually reviewing and approving any minor amendments to the *Election Guidelines*. Major amendments would require approval by the Executive Committee, to which this Committee reported.

The Chair invited Mr. Anwar Kazimi, CRO, to outline the proposed revisions to the *Election Guidelines 2016*.

Mr. Kazimi reported that the proposed revisions reflected the new election dates for 2016. As well, he noted that some minor editorial changes had been made. Mr. Kazimi provided some background of the remaining proposed revisions to the *Guidelines*, as follows:

Amendment to the *University of Toronto Act*, June 2015

On June 4, 2015, an amendment to the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, in Schedule 45 had come into force, upon which Bill 91 had received Royal Assent. The amendment had repealed subsection 2(4) of the *Act*, which provided no person could serve as a member of the university's Governing Council (administrative staff, alumni, teaching staff, students and Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointees) unless the person was a Canadian citizen. This action had addressed the longstanding wish of the Governing Council to reflect the diversity of the

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University of Toronto's communities.

The *Election Guidelines 2016* had reflected this change: all references to "Canadian citizen" would be deleted, as per the amended *Act*.

Definition of "Teaching Staff"

On June 25, 2015, Governing Council approved amendments to the *Policy and Procedures on Academic Appointments* (PPAA) which had created new teaching stream ranks. As a result, a more inclusive definition for *Teaching Staff* would be required for the purposes of elections of Teaching Staff to the Governing Council, Academic Board and for Campus Council and their Standing Committees at UTSC and UTM. There were no new Teaching Staff members added to this constituency.

New Student Elections Platform

The *Election Guidelines 2016* reflected the new election platform (*U-elect*) for the student elections that would be used in 2016. This was the result of changes to the central information technology service – Accessible Campus Online Resource Network (ACORN) – which had replaced the Repository of Student Information (ROSI) for the purposes of on-line voting by students, with certain exceptions. The U-elect platform, which was managed by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students, had been used by many student societies across the three campuses for the past seven years for their respective student society elections.

Part-time Undergraduate and Graduate Constituencies for Campus Council and their Committees at UTSC and UTM

Changes to the *Election Guidelines 2016* were included to reflect the number of nominators required (from five to three) by Part-Time Student and Graduate Student candidates for Campus Council and their Committees at UTSC and UTM. The change came from the general recognition and response to improve the possibility of increasing the number of candidates for these constituencies. Each Administrative Staff, Librarian Staff, and Undergraduate Student candidate would continue to be required to provide signatures of five nominators on their nomination forms.

The Chair thanked Mr. Kazimi for his report on the proposed revisions.

In response to a question, Mr. Kazimi explained that the dates of the nomination period, campaigning period and voting period were determined based on the need to have newly elected members identified prior to the undertaking of the task to appoint members to the Boards and Committees of Governing Council. The CRO would revisit the timing as part of the 2016 Elections Report that would be presented to the Committee at its May 2016 meeting.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the proposed revisions to the *Election Guidelines 2016* were not minor and as such, pursuant to its Terms of Reference, the *Guidelines* would be recommended for approval by the Executive Committee at its December 7, 2015 meeting.

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On motion duly, moved, seconded and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THAT the proposed *Election Guidelines 2016* be approved, effective, January 1, 2016.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made, seconded and carried

IT WAS APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and the items on it approved.

3. Report of the Previous Meeting - Report Number 74 (October 1, 2015)

The report of the previous meeting was approved.

4. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the report of the previous meeting.

5. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

6. Other Business

At the request of the Chair, the CRO and DROs reported on the proactive approaches on all three campuses to engage students, administrative staff and teaching staff with regard to the election process. A series of educational forums and other outreach initiatives would be undertaken prior to the nomination period for the 2016 elections; these included focused communications and advertising, election information sessions and an open house.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Secretary
November 19, 2015

Chair