Report for the 2020 Elections
for the Governing Council, the Academic Board,
University of Toronto Mississauga and University of Toronto Scarborough
Campus Councils and their Standing Committees

1.   Introduction

The purpose of the report is to provide factual information about the 2020 Governing Council elections and to indicate areas for discussion and possible revisions to the *Guidelines* for future elections.

2.   Revision of the *Election Guidelines 2019* for 2020

Minor revisions were made to the *Election Guidelines 2019* to create the *Election Guidelines 2020,* as follows:

- editorial changes were made in an effort to use more precise and consistent language and terms throughout the *Guidelines.* Where necessary, text was revised in order to provide greater direction to the reader and to reduce the likelihood of misunderstanding; and
- the *UelecT* online voting platform used for all student elections was also used for administrative and teaching staff elections.

The Elections Committee approved the *Election Guidelines 2020* at its meeting on November 28, 2019. The revised *Guidelines* were effective January 1, 2020 and were publically posted on the Office of the Governing Council's *Elections* webpage.

3.   Outreach to Promote Opportunities in Governance and Elections

As in previous years, many steps were taken each to promote the elections for seats on Governing Council, the Academic Board, and the UTM and UTSC Campus Councils and their Standing Committees. Proactive approaches by the CRO and DROs on all three campuses to engage students, administrative staff and teaching staff with regard to the election process included a series of educational forums and other outreach initiatives. These were undertaken prior to the nomination period for the 2020 elections and included focused communications and advertising, as well as election information sessions.

The 2020 Call for Nominations and Voting Period was publicized as follows:

- information sessions were held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 for teaching staff constituencies and on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 for students; invites to all students and teaching staff were sent the week of November 11, 2019; also promoted on the Governing Council website;

- information sessions for prospective nominees and candidates were held at UTM on Thursday, November 21, 2019; and at UTSC on Thursday, November 28, 2019 and Monday, December 3, 2019;

- in a memorandum to all registered students sent on December 9, 2019;

- in an on-line posting by the Vice-Provost Students (*Just in Time* postings) between December 6, 2019 until January 6, 2020, as an advance notification of the pending nomination period;

- in weekly Vice-Provost Students' e-newsletter "*9 New Things*" in December 2019 (pre-nomination), January 2020 (nomination) and February 2020 (voting – 2 inserts);

- in December 2019, targeted memoranda were sent to administrative staff, students, teaching staff, and librarians at UTM and UTSC to promote the election.

- by the registrars to promote the elections and nomination of students on their listservs and websites;

- in updated announcements on the Office of the Governing Council website, which included information on the UTM and UTSC Campus Council (and their bodies) elections;

- in a memorandum sent to post-graduate medical trainees in December 2019 and January 2020;

- in customized e-mail messages sent to divisional leaders at all three campuses asking for assistance in promoting participation in the 2020 elections;

- by the Chairs of the Academic Board, Business Board, University Affairs Board, and Governing Council at meetings of the respective bodies in December and by the Chairs of the UTM and UTSC Campus Council, Campus Affairs and Academic Affairs Committees at their meetings in January and early February 2020;

- by contacting the offices of Deans whose divisions had upcoming vacancies on the Academic Board and the Academic Affairs Committees at UTM and UTSC for teaching staff seats;

- on the new Governing Council Elections website (homepage): (https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections);

- listing in the *Provost's Weekly Digest* (published January 10 and 21, 2020);

Outreach to Promote Opportunities in Governance and Elections continued:

- advertisements in campus newspapers (*The Varsity* and *The Medium*) in December 2019, January and February 2020;

- At UTM, publicized via advertisements on the campus television screens;

- At UTSC, publicized in internal newsletters (i.e. *Dean's Notes* to all UTSC Teaching Staff; In addition, the opportunities were advertised to students within the AccessAbility Services unit on LCD screens;

- on the U of T events webpage (http://www.events.utoronto.ca), during the campaign period;

- in a mass email sent on January 6, 2020 to all students and post-graduate medical trainees eligible to participate in the elections. Targeted emails to members of the various estates were sent by UTM and UTSC;

- on the U of T student portal (*Accessible Campus Online Resource Network* - ACORN) between January 6 and 17, 2020 (re Nomination Period);

- in a follow-up email to students who had expressed interest in serving on the Council (i.e. attended earlier information sessions and/or sent emails requesting information about the election process); and

- the methods listed above were also used to publicize the Voting Period in February 2020, including the listing of all student candidate statements for Governing Council seats published student newspapers (2 full ads – print and on-line) in *The Varsity* and *The Medium*; and

- additionally, the listing of all student, teaching staff and administrative staff candidate statements for UTM Campus Council and Standing Committees seats were published in *The Medium*.

4.   Nominations

Governing Council

The nomination period for seats on the Governing Council, the Academic Board and the UTM and UTSC Campus Councils and their Standing Committees opened on Monday January 6, 2020 at 12:00 noon and closed on Friday, January 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Nomination forms for each constituency were available electronically from the Governing Council website and in paper form from the Office of the Governing Council, at UTM, and UTSC. The vast majority of candidates obtained the nomination forms from the website using a pdf fillable form.

Upon the close of the nomination period, it was determined that Governing Council elections were required for six student seats (with 2 seats acclaimed in the Part-time Undergraduate Student Constituency) and three teaching staff seats (with 1 seat acclaimed in Constituency VIII – OISE).

Successful candidates in the teaching staff elections were Professor Shashi Kant (Constituency II – UTM) and Professor Jan Mahrt-Smith (Constituency VII); Professor Douglas McDougall (Constituency VIII – OISE) was acclaimed.

Academic Board

17 teaching staff seats and 1 librarian seat on the Academic Board were open for election, most for a three-year term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. Upon the close of the nomination period, ten (10) seats were acclaimed; and eight (8) seats were open for election. Three (3) seats remain unfilled in the Faculty of Medicine; one (1) seat remains unfilled at UTSC; all will be re-opened in the Fall 2020 academic session. A list of acclaimed and elected candidates can be viewed on the Elections website: https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections

UTM and UTSC Campus Councils and their Standing Committees

This was the 8th year where elections were held for the UTM and UTSC CCs and their Standing Committees.

The information sessions held at UTM and UTSC generated interest among all the estates and constituencies. A number of the attendees put their names forward as candidates for seats on the CCs and their Standing Committees.

At UTM, there was substantial interest in the available seats for the various estates following the first call for nominations. Nominations were submitted for all seats, with the exception of two part-time student seats (1 on CC and 1 on AAC) and one graduate student seat (on the CAC). A second call for nominations led to the need for an election for the graduate student seat on the CAC, with the two part-time undergraduate student seats remaining vacant.

Elections at UTM were required in the full-time undergraduate student constituency of the CC, the graduate student constituency of the CAC, the teaching staff constituency of the CAC, and the administrative staff constituencies of the CC and CAC.

At UTSC, there was healthy engagement by full-time undergraduate students during the initial Call for Nominations. Elections at UTSC were required in the full-time undergraduate student constituency of the CC, AAC and CAC. Candidates were acclaimed in the graduate student constituency for CC and AAC; for Teaching Staff and Librarian seats on CC, AAC and CAC.

A Call for Nominations would be issued in the Fall 2020 academic session for teaching staff seats on AAC (1) and CAC (1); one graduate student seat on CAC; and for part-time undergraduate student seat and CC, AAC and CAC.

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Table 1: Summary of Nominations for the Governing Council Elections 2020

Constituency	# of seats available	# of nominations received	# of times nominations were re-opened
Teaching Staff (term ending June 30, 2023)			
<u>Constituency II</u> *includes all teaching staff who hold their major appointments at the University of Toronto Mississauga*	1	2	0
<u>Constituency VII</u> *includes all teaching staff who hold their major appointments in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, Faculty of Information, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Music and the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.*	1	2	0
<u>Constituency VII</u> *includes all teaching staff who hold their major appointments in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE)*	1	1	0
Full-time Undergraduate Students (term ending June 30, 2021)			
Constituency I (Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC)	2	22	0
Constituency II (Professional Faculties)	2	9	0
Part-time Undergraduate Students (term ending June 30, 2021)	2	2	0
Graduate Students (term ending June 30, 2021)			
Constituency I (Humanities & Social Sciences: Divisions I & II)	1	6	0
Constituency II (Physical & Life Sciences: Divisions III & IV)	1	4	0

5.   Election Process 20120

Information Meeting for Candidates

The Chief Returning Officer held information meetings for the student candidates of the Governing Council elections on January 21 and 22, 2020. The Deputy Returning Officers held concurrent information meetings at UTM and UTSC on January 21, 2020 for candidates participating in the elections for the Campus Councils and their Standing Committees.

The purpose of the meetings was to provide candidates with information regarding their respective constituencies, the voting process, and the campaign rules as outlined in the *Election Guidelines 2020*. It was made clear that each candidate's signature on the nomination form indicated their agreement to be bound by the rules of the *Guidelines*. Candidates were also asked to review their statements, which would be published in campus newspapers and would accompany all election ballots. Some candidates who were unable to attend the meeting met separately with the CRO and the DROs to review the campaign rules. At the information meetings, the CRO and DROs reassured all candidates that reminders from the Office of the Governing Council and the respective Campus Councils would be sent to all eligible voters encouraging them to exercise their franchise.

Student Voting

The campaign period for candidates, which overlapped with the voting period, was held from Monday, January 27 to Friday, February 14, 2020. All students, including post-graduate medical trainees, were able to vote online (from Monday, February 3 to Friday, February 14, 2020) through *U-ElecT* https://voting.utoronto.ca/election via the *Accessible Campus Online Resource Network* (ACORN). The size of each student constituency and the number of valid votes cast for the Governing Council elections over the past five years is shown in Table 3.

Teaching Staff Voting

Online voting for teaching staff Governing Council elections were held via online through *U-ElecT* https://voting.utoronto.ca/election from Monday, February 3 to Friday, February 14, 2020

Lists of eligible teaching staff voters were obtained via the Human Resources Information System (HRIS), together with electors' email addresses and UTORids. Voting instructions were also posted on the elections website.

6.   Appeals and Campaign Violations

There was no requirement for the Elections Committee of the Governing Council, in accordance with Section 7.8(b) of the *Election Guidelines 2020*, to meet as "Election Overseers" in 2020.

All candidates were sent an email during the campaign reminding them of the relevant sections of the *Election Guidelines 2020*, in particular Appendix A (*Guidelines for Campaigning and Enforcement of the Elections Guidelines 2020)*.

The number of allegations of campaign violations and appeals that have been made since 2016 are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Campaign Violation Allegations and Appeals, 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of allegations of campaign violations	0	0	1	0	0
Number of appeals of election process/results	0	0	0	0	0
Number of appeals of technical invalidation	2	0	0	0	0
	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Number of allegations and appeals referred to Election Overseers	2	0	1	0	0
Number of *serious*/*severe* violations found	0	0	1	0	0

Table 3: Voting Results Governing Council, 2016 to 2020

STUDENT CONSTITUENCY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Full-time Undergraduate Students					
Constituency I Constituency Size	47,422	48,329	49,503	50,454	51,874
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	4,348 (9.1%)	2,747 (5.7%)	2,714 (5.4%)	2,914 (5.8%)	1,428 (2.8%)
Constituency II Constituency Size	14,216	14,908	14,263	14,797	14,910
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	603 (4.2%)	691 (5%)	816 (5.7%)	405 (2.7%)	462 (3.1%)

Part-time Undergraduate Students					
Constituency Size	6,856	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	201 (.3%)	Both seats acclaimed	Both seats acclaimed	Both seats acclaimed	Both seats acclaimed
Graduate Students					
Constituency I Constituency Size	8,416	8,867	8,983	9,504	10,372
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	476 (5.6%)	367 (4.1%)	478 (5.3%)	393 (4.1%)	538 (5.2%)
Constituency II Constituency Size	7,808	8,153	8,476	8,847	9,580
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	266 (3.4%)	920 (11.3%)	293 (3.4%)	548 (6.2%)	794 (8.3%)

Teaching Staff					
CONSTITUENCY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Constituency II - UTM Constituency Size	N/A	491	N/A	N/A	593
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)		59 (12%)			136 (23%)
Constituency VII Constituency Size	N/A	573	N/A	N/A	670
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)		133 (23%)			210 (31%)

Constituency VIII - OISE Constituency Size	N/A	223	N/A	N/A	Acclaimed
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)		40 (18%)			

Voting Results – 2020 UTM Campus Council and its Standing Committees – Students

Governance Body	Constituency	
Campus Council	Full-time Undergraduate	14,021 (Size)
		742 (Votes Cast)
Campus Council	Graduate	
		Acclaimed
Campus Council	Part-time Undergraduate	
		Unfilled
Academic Affairs Committee	Full-time Undergraduate	
		Acclaimed
Academic Affairs Committee	Graduate	
		Acclaimed
Academic Affairs Committee	Part-time Undergraduate	
		Unfilled
Campus Affairs Committee	Full-time Undergraduate	
		Acclaimed
Campus Affairs Committee	Graduate	847 (Size)
		48 (Votes Cast)
Campus Affairs Committee	Part-time Undergraduate	
		Acclaimed

Voting Results – 2020 UTSC Campus Council and its Standing Committees - Students

Governance Body	Constituency	
Campus Council	Full-time Undergraduate	12,382 (Size)
		1,345 (Votes Cast)
Campus Council	Graduate	
		Acclaimed
Campus Council	Part-time Undergraduate	
		Unfilled
Academic Affairs Committee	Full-time Undergraduate	12,282 (Size)
		1,392 (Votes Cast)

Academic Affairs Committee	Graduate		
		Acclaimed	
Academic Affairs Committee	Part-time Undergraduate		
		Unfilled	
Campus Affairs Committee	Full-time Undergraduate	12,382 (Size)	
		1,097 (Votes Cast)	
Campus Affairs Committee	Graduate		
		Unfilled	
Campus Affairs Committee	Part-time Undergraduate		
		Unfilled	

7.   Recommendation

As indicated in the data provided for the nominations and the voting results, participation in the elections across all estates and constituencies continued to remain a challenge.

As part of an ongoing review, it is recommended that any further revisions of the *Election Guidelines 2020* to create the *Election Guidelines 2021* be discussed by the Elections Committee.

Anwar Kazimi
Chief Returning Officer

May 11, 2020