



**Report for the 2021 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 2021 Governing Council elections and to indicate areas for discussion and possible revisions to the *Guidelines* for future elections.

2. Revision of the *Election Guidelines 2020* for 2021

Minor revisions were made to the *Election Guidelines 2020* to create the *Election Guidelines 2021*, as noted in the table below. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) recommended that the use of electronic nomination forms be implemented. The process included clarification of the responsibilities of nominees and nominators regarding signatures and the acceptance of terms and conditions of nomination process outlined in the *Guidelines*.

Other 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.

<i>SECTION:</i>	Minor Changes to <i>Election Guidelines 2020</i> for Approval to create <i>Election Guidelines 2021</i>
ALL RELEVANT SECTIONS	Minor editorial changes (i.e. updated web links to new Governing Council website, accessibility websites, updated current list of elected members in all estates, etc.).
Sections 2.1, 7.4, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5	Updated to reflect the 2021 election schedules.

<p>Section 6</p>	<p>Added sentence regarding election-related materials being accessible and compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).</p>
<p>Sections 7.6, 8.7, 9.7, 10.7 and 11.10</p>	<p>Use of electronic nomination forms and clarification of the responsibilities of nominees and nominators regarding signatures and the acceptance of terms and conditions of nomination process outlined in the <i>Guidelines</i>.</p>
<p>Sections 7.8, 8.9, 8.20, 9.8, 9.19, 10.9, 10.20 and 11.12</p>	<p>Updated “<i>Notice of Intent to Appeal</i>” sections to permit filings via email.</p>
<p>Sections 7.10, 8.11, 9.11, 10.11 and 11.14</p>	<p>Updated “<i>Withdrawal of Candidacy</i>” process to use prescribed electronic forms.</p>
<p>Section 11.5, 11.6, 11.7 and 11.24</p>	<p>Incorporated changes regarding UTM and UTSC full-time undergraduate and part-time undergraduate student seats, which have been merged and defined as “undergraduate” seats.</p> <p>These changes reflect recommendations contained in the <i>Report of the 2020 Committee to Review the UTM and UTSC Campus Councils (CRCC 2020)</i>, approved by the Governing Council on June 25, 2020.</p>
<p>Appendix A:</p> <p><i>Use of Resources</i></p> <p><i>Publication of Confirmed Violations</i></p>	<p>Clarification regarding authorization for the use of listservs.</p> <p>Clarification regarding the timeline of the publication of the names of “offending candidates”; and names of “the appellants” on matters related to appeals on procedures.</p>

The Elections Committee approved the *Election Guidelines 2021* at its meeting on November 26, 2020. The revised *Guidelines* were effective January 1, 2021 and were publicly 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 to promote the elections for seats on Governing Council, the Academic Board, and the UTM and UTSC Campus Councils and their Standing Committees, however all in the context of the pandemic.

Proactive approaches by the CRO and Deputy Returning Officers (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 delivered by virtual means using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. These initiatives were undertaken prior to the nomination period for the 2021 elections and also included focused communications and advertising, as well as election information sessions.

The 2021 Call for Nominations and Voting Period was publicized as follows:

- Virtual information sessions were held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 for students; and on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 for teaching staff constituencies and for administrative staff; invites to all students, administrative staff and teaching staff were sent the week of November 16, 2020; also promoted on the Governing Council website;
- Additional *one-on-one* virtual information sessions were offered to those eligible to seek election but who were able to attend one of the scheduled virtual information sessions;
- Virtual information sessions for prospective nominees and candidates at UTM were held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020; and at UTSC on Monday, November 23, 2020;
- In a memorandum to all registered students sent on December 14, 2020;
- In an on-line posting by the Vice-Provost Students (*Just in Time* postings) between December 7, 2020 until January 5, 2021, as an advance notification of the pending nomination period;
- In weekly Vice-Provost Students' e-newsletter "*9 New Things*" in December 2020 (pre-nomination), January 2021 (nomination) and February 2021 (voting);
- In December 2020, targeted memoranda were sent to administrative staff, students, teaching staff, and librarians at UTM and UTSC to promote the election;
- 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 2020 and January 2021;
- In customized e-mail messages sent to divisional leaders at all three campuses asking for assistance in promoting participation in the 2021 elections;
- By the Chairs of the Academic Board and 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 2021;
- 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 Governing Council Elections website (homepage): (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections>);
- Listing in the *Provost's Weekly Digest* (January 2021);
- Online advertisements in *The Varsity* in December 2020, January and February 2021;
- On the U of T events webpage (<http://www.events.utoronto.ca>), during the campaign period;
- In a mass email sent on January 5, 2021 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 5 and 22, 2021 (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 2021, including the listing of all candidate statements for Governing Council on the Elections website; additionally, the listing of all student, teaching staff and administrative staff candidate statements for UTSC and UTM Campus Council and Standing Committees seats were also published.

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 Tuesday January 5, 2021 at 12:00 noon and closed on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Electronic Nomination forms for each constituency were available from the Governing Council website.

Upon the close of the nomination period, it was determined that Governing Council elections were required for five student seats (with 2 seats acclaimed in the Part-time Undergraduate Student Constituency and one seat for Graduate Students – Constituency II), one administrative staff seat and 3 teaching staff seats (with 2 teaching staff seats acclaimed in Constituencies IB (FAS) and III (UTM)).

The successful candidate in the administrative staff election was Vikram Chadalawada; successful candidates in the teaching staff elections were Professor Nhung Tuyet Tran (Constituency IA – FAS), Dr. Veronica Wadey (Constituency V – Medicine), and Professor Ernest Lam (Constituency VI); Professor Ron Levi (Constituency IB – FAS) and Professor Vina Goghari (Constituency III – UTM) were acclaimed.

Academic Board

15 teaching staff seats and 1 librarian seat on the Academic Board were open for election, most for a three-year term from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. Upon the close of the nomination period, 14 seats were acclaimed; and 2 seats were open for election. 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 9th year where elections were held for the UTM and UTSC Campus Council's and their Standing Committees.

The virtual 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 Campus Council's and their Standing Committees.

Sections 11.5, 11.6, 11.7 and 11.24 of the *Election Guidelines 2021*, incorporated changes regarding UTM and UTSC undergraduate student seats, which were merged to include part-time undergraduate seats. This change reflected the recommendations contained in the *Report of the 2020 Committee to Review the UTM and UTSC Campus Councils (CRCC 2020)*, approved by the Governing Council on June 25, 2020.

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 graduate student seats (1 on Campus Council and 1 on the Academic Affairs Committee). Following a second call for nominations, one graduate student candidate was acclaimed on the UTM Campus Council. One graduate student seat on the Academic Affairs Committee remains vacant.

Elections at UTM were required in the undergraduate student constituency of the Campus Council, Campus Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee and in the administrative staff constituency of the Campus Affairs Committee.

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 Campus Council. Candidates were acclaimed in the undergraduate student constituency for the Campus Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee; for Teaching Staff and Librarian seats on CC, AAC and CAC. Candidates were also acclaimed in the graduate student constituency for Campus Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee.

A Call for Nominations will be issued in the Fall 2021 academic session for teaching staff seats on Campus Council (1), Academic Affairs Committee (1) and Campus Affairs Committee (2); one graduate student seat on Campus Council.

Table 1: Summary of Nominations for the Governing Council Elections 2021

Constituency	# of seats available	# of nominations received	# of times nominations were re-opened
Administrative Staff (term ending June 30, 2024)	1	8	0
Teaching Staff (term ending June 30, 2024)			
<u>Constituency IA</u> includes all Teaching Staff members in the Faculty of Arts and Science who hold their major appointments in the Departments of Art, Classics, East Asian Studies, English, French, Germanic Languages and Literatures, History, Italian Studies, Linguistics, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Philosophy, Study of Religion, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Spanish and Portuguese, the Centre for Comparative Literature, the Cinema Studies Institute, the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, the Centre for Medieval Studies, and the Institute for History & Philosophy of Science & Technology (excluding those who are members of Constituency II or III).	1	2	0
<u>Constituency IB</u> includes all Teaching Staff members in the Faculty of Arts and Science who hold their major appointments in the Departments of Anthropology, Economics, Geography & Planning, Political Science, Sociology, the	1	1	0

<p><i>Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, the Munk School of Global Affairs, the Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources, the Women and Gender Studies Institute, and Teaching Staff members who hold their major appointments in University College, St Michael's College, New College, Woodsworth College, and Innis College (excluding those who are members of Constituency IA, IC, II or III).</i></p> <p><u>Constituency III</u> includes all Teaching Staff members who hold their major appointments at the University of Toronto Scarborough.</p> <p><u>Constituency V</u> includes all members in the Faculty of Medicine. Members elected from the Faculty of Medicine may not be from the same Department within the Faculty.</p> <p><u>Constituency VI</u> includes all Teaching Staff members who hold their major appointments in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Faculty of Dentistry, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education.</p>	1	1	0
<p>Full-time Undergraduate Students (term ending June 30, 2022)</p> <p>Constituency I (Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC)</p> <p>Constituency II (Professional Faculties)</p>	2	33	0
<p>Part-time Undergraduate Students (term ending June 30, 2022)</p>	2	2	0
<p>Graduate Students (term ending June 30, 2022)</p> <p>Constituency I (Humanities & Social Sciences: Divisions I & II)</p> <p>Constituency II (Physical & Life Sciences: Divisions III & IV)</p>	1	7	0
	1	1	0

5. Election Process 2021

Information Meeting for Candidates

The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) held virtual information meetings for the student candidates of the Governing Council elections on January 27 and 28, 2021; and for administrative and teaching staff candidates on January 28, 2021. The Deputy Returning Officers (DROs) held concurrent information sessions at UTM and UTSC on January 28, 2021 for candidates participating in the elections for the Campus Councils and their Standing Committees.

The purpose of the virtual meetings was to provide candidates with information regarding their respective constituencies, the voting process, and the campaign rules as outlined in the *Election Guidelines 2021*. It was made clear that each candidate's signature on the electronic 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 online, in *The Varsity*, 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 virtual information meetings, the CRO and DROs advised 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, February 1, 2021 to Friday, February 19, 2021. All students, including post-graduate medical trainees, were able to vote online (from Monday, February 8 to Friday, February 19, 2021) through the online voting utility, *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 administrative and teaching staff Governing Council elections were held via online through *U-elecT* <https://voting.utoronto.ca/election> from Monday, February 8, 2021 to Friday, February 19, 2021.

Lists of eligible administrative and 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 and included in all email notices.

U-elecT Voting Issue

U-elecT (voting.utoronto.ca) is a 24/7 on-line voting tool launched in February 2010 through a partnership between Student Life (St. George) and Information Technology Services/ITS, (Enterprise Applications and Solutions Integration/EASI, formerly Student Information

Systems/SIS). The tool allows the Office of the Governing Council, student societies and other student organizations to conduct elections and referenda at the University of Toronto on all three campuses. Governing Council elections opened to student and staff constituencies on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. – the voting platform experienced an incident on the first day of election – voters began to report errors and difficulty voting to the Chief Returning Officer. ITS staff confirmed that *U-elecT* was under heavy load by users, and that corrective action was being undertaken. The CRO communicated directly with those eligible voters who had experienced technical issues and in all cases the voters were able to cast their respective ballot. While the voter process was interrupted due to load and application errors, the integrity of votes was maintained. Overall, voter activity in 2021 was comparable to previous years.

6. Appeals and Campaign Violations

There was one (1) requirement for the Elections Committee of the Governing Council, in accordance with Section 7.8(b) of the *Election Guidelines 2021*, to meet as “Election Overseers” in 2021.

All candidates were sent an email during the campaign reminding them of the relevant sections of the *Election Guidelines 2021*, in particular Appendix A (*Guidelines for Campaigning and Enforcement of the Elections Guidelines 2021*).

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, 2016-2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of allegations of campaign violations	0	0	1	0	0	1
Number of appeals of election process/results	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of appeals of technical invalidation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of allegations and appeals referred to Election Overseers	0	0	1	0	0	1

Number of serious/severe violations found	0	0	1	0	0	1
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Table 3: Voting Results Governing Council, 2016 to 2021

STUDENT CONSTITUENCY	2016	2017	2108	2019	2020	2021
Full-time Undergraduate Students						
<u>Constituency I</u> Constituency Size	47,422	48,329	49,503	50,454	51,874	53,424
# 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%)	2,049 (3.8%)
<u>Constituency II</u> Constituency Size	14,216	14,908	14,263	14,797	14,910	14,309
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	603 (4.2%)	691 (5%)	816 (5.7%)	405 (2.7%)	462 (3.1%)	1,184 (8.3%)
Part-time Undergraduate Students						
Constituency Size	6,856	N/A	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	Both seats acclaimed

Graduate Students						
<u>Constituency I</u> Constituency Size	8,416	8,867	8,983	9,504	10,372	10,478
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	476 (5.6%)	367 (4.1%)	478 (5.3%)	393 (4.1%)	538 (5.2%)	424 (4.0%)
<u>Constituency II</u> Constituency Size	7,808	8,153	8,476	8,847	9,580	N/A
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	266 (3.4%)	920 (11.3%)	293 (3.4%)	548 (6.2%)	794 (8.3%)	Seat acclaimed

Administrative Staff						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Constituency Size	7,440	N/A	8,561	8,706	N/A	9,067
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	628 (8.4%)		739 (8.6%)	1,333 (15%)		1,295 (14%)

Note: No elections for Administrative Staff seat in 2017 & 2020

Teaching Staff Statistics introduced via *U-elecT* in 2019

Constituency IA includes all Teaching Staff members in the Faculty of Arts and Science who hold their major appointments in the Departments of Art, Classics, East Asian Studies, English, French, Germanic Languages and Literatures, History, Italian Studies, Linguistics, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Philosophy, Study of Religion, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Spanish and Portuguese, the Centre for Comparative Literature, the Cinema Studies Institute, the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, the Centre for Medieval Studies, and the Institute for History & Philosophy of Science & Technology (excluding those who are members of Constituency II or III).

Constituency Size: 392

of valid Votes cast: 91
(23% Voters)

Constituency IB includes all Teaching Staff members in the Faculty of Arts and Science who hold their major appointments in the Departments of Anthropology, Economics, Geography & Planning, Political Science, Sociology, the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, the Munk School of Global Affairs, the Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources, the Women and Gender Studies Institute, and Teaching Staff members who hold their major appointments in University College, St Michael's College, New College, Woodsworth College, and Innis College (excluding those who are members of Constituency IA, IC, II or III).

Constituency Size: 378

of valid Votes cast:

N/A – seat acclaimed

Constituency III includes all Teaching Staff members who hold their major appointments at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

Constituency Size: 512

of valid Votes cast:

N/A – seat acclaimed

Constituency V includes all members in the Faculty of Medicine.

Constituency Size: 5,484

of valid Votes cast: 181

(3.3% Voters)

Constituency VI includes all Teaching Staff members who hold their major appointments in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Faculty of Dentistry, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

Constituency Size: 960

of valid Votes cast: 146

(15% Voters)

7. Preparations for 2022 Elections

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. The Chief Returning Officer will continue to explore voting platform options in consultation with the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and Enterprise Applications and Solutions Integration (EASI).

Recommendation:

As part of an ongoing review, it is recommended that any further revisions of the *Election Guidelines 2021* to create the *Election Guidelines 2022* be discussed by the Elections Committee.

Anwar Kazimi
Chief Returning Officer

May 6, 2021