



**Report for the 2023 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 2023 Governing Council elections and to indicate areas for discussion and revisions to the *Guidelines* for future elections.

**2. Revision of the *Election Guidelines 2022* for 2023**

Minor revisions were made to the *Election Guidelines 2022* to create the *Election Guidelines 2023*, as noted in the table below. Due to the success of the electronic nominations process during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) recommended that the use of electronic nomination forms be continued going forward. The process included clarification of the responsibilities of nominees and nominators regarding signatures and the acceptance of terms and conditions of the nomination process outlined in the *Guidelines*.

Other editorial changes were made to use more precise and consistent language and terms throughout the *Guidelines*. Where necessary, text was revised to provide greater direction to the reader and to reduce the likelihood of misunderstanding.

<b><i>SECTION:</i></b>	<b>Minor Changes to <i>Election Guidelines 2022</i> for Approval to create <i>Election Guidelines 2023</i></b>
<b>ALL RELEVANT SECTIONS</b>	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.).
<b>Section 3</b>	Added EDI related initiatives undertaken in relation to the 2023 election.
<b>Sections 2.1, 7.4, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5</b>	Updated to reflect the 2023 election schedules.

<b>Section 6</b>	Updated content to be compliant with the <i>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)</i> .
<b>Sections 7.6, 8.7, 9.7, 10.7 and 11.10</b>	Updated relevant sections regarding the 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> .

The Elections Committee approved the *Election Guidelines 2022* at its meeting on November 24, 2022. The revised *Guidelines* were effective January 1, 2023 and were publicly posted on the Office of the Governing Council’s *Elections* webpage.

### **3. Outreach to Promote Opportunities in Governance and Elections**

The Governing Council reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a culture of belonging to address and serve the interests of our global community. The diverse perspectives, experiences and expertise of Governors are essential to strengthening the University’s academic mission and during the 2023 Elections the Office of the Governing Council engaged the expertise of the Executive Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in outreach to community partners increasing awareness and encouraging participation in governance.

Some of these groups included:

- Indigenous student groups such as the Indigenous Research Network
- Broader community (students, staff, faculty) groups at UTSC
- the Anti-Black Racism Taskforce of UTM
- Caribbean Connections
- Racialized student groups, including the African Student Association, Black Student Association, Caribbean Student Association, Muslim Student Association
- Black Research Network and Black Founders Network
- Black Future Lawyer’s Club
- Black Literature & Arts Club
- Divisional EDI Directors and a coordinated effort of outreach through the University’s Equity listservs

As in previous years, many other 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.

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 (including use of governance orientation videos) and other outreach initiatives delivered both in-person and virtual means using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. These initiatives were undertaken prior to the nomination period for the 2023 elections and included focused communications and advertising, as well as election information sessions.

The 2023 Call for Nominations and Voting Period was publicized as follows:

- In-person information sessions were held on Tuesday, November 22 and Wednesday, November 23, 2022 for students; and on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 for teaching staff constituencies; invites to all students, administrative staff and teaching staff were sent the week of November 14, 2022; these also promoted on the Governing Council website;
- Additional *one-on-one* in-person and virtual information sessions were offered to those eligible to seek election but who were unable to attend one of the scheduled information sessions;
- Virtual information sessions for prospective nominees and candidates at UTM were held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022;
- Virtual information sessions for prospective nominees and candidates at UTSC were held on Monday, November 21, 2022.
- In a memorandum to all registered students sent on December 20, 2022;
- In weekly Vice-Provost Students' e-newsletters "*9 New Things*" in January 2023 (nomination period) and February 2023 (voting period);
- In a digital promotions strategy using electronic screens throughout UTM and UTSC;
- In December 2022, 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 2022 and January 2023;
- In customized e-mail messages sent to divisional leaders at all three campuses asking for assistance in promoting participation in the 2023 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 2023;
- 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 2023);
- Print advertisements in *The Varsity* in January and February 2023;
- On the U of T events webpage (<http://www.events.utoronto.ca>), during the campaign period;
- In a mass email sent on January 9, 2023, 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 7 and 17, 2023 (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 2023, including the listing of all candidate statements for Governing Council on the Elections website; additionally, the listing of all students, 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 Monday, January 9, 2023, at 12:00 noon and closed on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

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

Upon the close of the nomination period, it was determined that Governing Council elections were required for six (6) student seats (there were no candidates for 2 part-time undergraduate student seats), one teaching staff seat in Constituency VII<sup>1</sup>, with teaching staff seats acclaimed in Constituencies II<sup>2</sup> and VIII<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> all Teaching Staff members 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

<sup>2</sup> UTM

<sup>3</sup> OISE

The successful candidate in the teaching staff election for Constituency VII was Professor Ramy Elitzur from the Rotman School of Management. Professor Andrew Petersen (Constituency II) and Professor Douglas McDougall (Constituency VIII) were both acclaimed.

### Academic Board

Seventeen (17) teaching staff seats and one (1) librarian seat on the Academic Board were open for election, most for a three-year term from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026. Upon the close of the nomination period, sixteen (16) teaching staff seats were acclaimed with one (1) seat in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine remaining unfilled. The single librarian seat was also acclaimed. 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 11th 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.

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 were 28 available seats in the various estates announced with the first call for nominations. Nominations were received for all vacancies except for three undergraduate student seats on the Campus Affairs Committee. Following a second call for nominations for these seats, an election was required. In addition, elections were required in the undergraduate student constituency and the administrative staff constituency of the Campus Council and in the teaching staff constituency of the Campus Affairs Committee.

At UTSC, nominations were received for all vacancies except one (1) graduate student seat and one (1) teaching staff seat on the Campus Council, one (1) graduate student seat and one (1) teaching staff seat on the Academic Affairs Committee, and two (2) teaching staff seats on the Campus Affairs Committee. Elections were required in the undergraduate student constituency for the Campus Council, Academic Affairs Committee and Campus Affairs Committee. An election was also required for the administrative staff constituency of the Campus Affairs Committee.

Candidates were acclaimed in the librarian constituency for the Campus Council, and graduate student and teaching staff constituencies for the Academic Affairs Committee and Campus Affairs Committee.

Tables have been added to the Report to ensure consistency between the tri-campus.

**Table 1: Summary of Nominations for the Governing Council Elections 2023**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats available</b>	<b># of nominations received</b>	<b># of times nominations were re-opened</b>
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)			
<u>Constituency II</u>	1	1	0
<u>Constituency VII</u>	1	4	0
<u>Constituency VIII</u>	1	1	0
<b>Full-time Undergraduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)			
Constituency I (Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC)	2	39	0
Constituency II (Professional Faculties)	2	11	0
<b>Part-time Undergraduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)	2	0	1
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)			
Constituency I (Humanities & Social Sciences: Divisions I & II)	1	4	0
Constituency II (Physical & Life Sciences: Divisions III & IV)	1	9	0

**Table 2: Summary of Nominations for the Academic Board Elections 2023**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats available</b>	<b># of nominations received</b>	<b># of times nominations were re-opened</b>
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)			
<u>Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering</u>	1	1	0
<u>Faculty of Arts and Science</u>	5	5	0
<u>Faculty of Information</u>	1	1	0
<u>Faculty of Law</u>	1	1	0
<u>Temerty Faculty of Medicine</u>	4	3	1
<u>Faculty of Nursing</u>	1	1	0
<u>Ontario Institute for Studies in Education</u>	1	1	0
<u>Faculty of Public Health</u>	1	1	0
<u>University of Toronto Mississauga</u>	1	1	0
<u>University of Toronto Scarborough</u>	1	1	0
<b>Librarians</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	1	1	0

**Table 3: Summary of Nominations for the UTM Campus Council Election 2023**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats available</b>	<b># of nominations received</b>	<b># of times nominations were re-opened</b>
<b>Administrative Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	1	2	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	2	2	0
<u>Ineligible Departments:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Management; Institute for the Study of University Pedagogy; Psychology</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)	3	6	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)	1	1	0

**Table 4: Summary of Nominations for the UTM Academic Affairs Committee Election 2023**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats available</b>	<b># of nominations received</b>	<b># of times nominations were re-opened</b>
<b>Librarian</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	1	1	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	4	4	0
<u>Eligible Departments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Biology; English &amp; Drama; Geography, Geomatics &amp; Environment; Mathematical &amp; Computational Sciences</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> <i>full- and part-time students</i> (term ending June 30, 2024)	5	5	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)	2	2	0



**Table 5: Summary of Nominations for the UTM Campus Affairs Committee Election 2023**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats available</b>	<b># of nominations received</b>	<b># of times nominations were re-opened</b>
<b>Administrative Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	1	1	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	2	3	0
<u>Eligible Departments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Chemical &amp; Physical Sciences; Economics</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> <i>full- and part-time students</i> (term ending June 30, 2024)	3	6	1
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)	1	1	0

**Table 6: Summary of Nominations for the UTSC Campus Council Election 2023**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats available</b>	<b># of nominations received</b>	<b># of times nominations were re-opened</b>
<b>Librarian</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	1	1	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	1	0	1
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)	3	10	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)	1	0	1

**Table 7: Summary of Nominations for the UTSC Academic Affairs Committee Election 2023**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats available</b>	<b># of nominations received</b>	<b># of times nominations were re-opened</b>
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)  <u>Ineligible Departments:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Biological Sciences</li> <li>• Centre for Teaching and Learning</li> </ul>	5	4	1
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> <i>full- and part-time students</i> (term ending June 30, 2024)	5	9	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)	2	1	1

**Table 8: Summary of Nominations for the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee Election 2023**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b># of seats available</b>	<b># of nominations received</b>	<b># of times nominations were re-opened</b>
<b>Administrative Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)	1	3	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2026)			
<u>Biological Sciences</u>	1	1	0
<u>TBD</u>	1	0	1
<u>TBD</u>	1	0	1
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> <i>full- and part-time students</i> (term ending June 30, 2024)	5	6	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2024)	1	1	0

## 5. Election Process 2023

### Information Meeting for Candidates

The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) held two in-person information meetings for the student candidates of the Governing Council elections on January 25, 2023; and for teaching staff candidates on January 27, 2023. The Deputy Returning Officers (DROs) held information sessions at UTM and UTSC on January 24, 2023, for candidates participating in the elections for the Campus Councils and their Standing Committees. Subsequent information meetings were provided in both small group and individual sessions at the request of candidates.

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 2023*. 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 on the Elections website, in the *Varsity* newspaper, and would accompany all election ballots. At the 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, January 30, 2023, to Friday, February 17, 2023. All students, including post-graduate medical trainees, were able to vote online from Tuesday, February 7 to Friday, February 17, 2023, through the web-based voting platform, *Simply Voting*: <https://utoronto.simplyvoting.com/>. The size of each student constituency and the number of valid votes cast for the Governing Council and UTM and UTSC Campus Council elections over the past five years is shown in Table 10-12.

### Administrative Staff and Teaching Staff Voting

Online voting for administrative and teaching staff elections were held via online through *Simply Voting*: <https://utoronto.simplyvoting.com/> from Tuesday, February 7, 2023, to Friday, February 17, 2023.

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.

### Simply Voting

For the 2023 election, the previously used *U-Elect* platform was replaced with a new web portal voting platform (*Simply Voting*) recently purchased by the Office of Student Life. The platform was purchased to accommodate elections related to student organizations, however, the CRO was involved in its RFP and was advised of its capabilities for administrative and teaching staff elections. During the Governing Council election, no issues were reported aside from individuals

who had not been able to vote due to either their recent appointment to the university, or their ineligibility within a specific constituency.

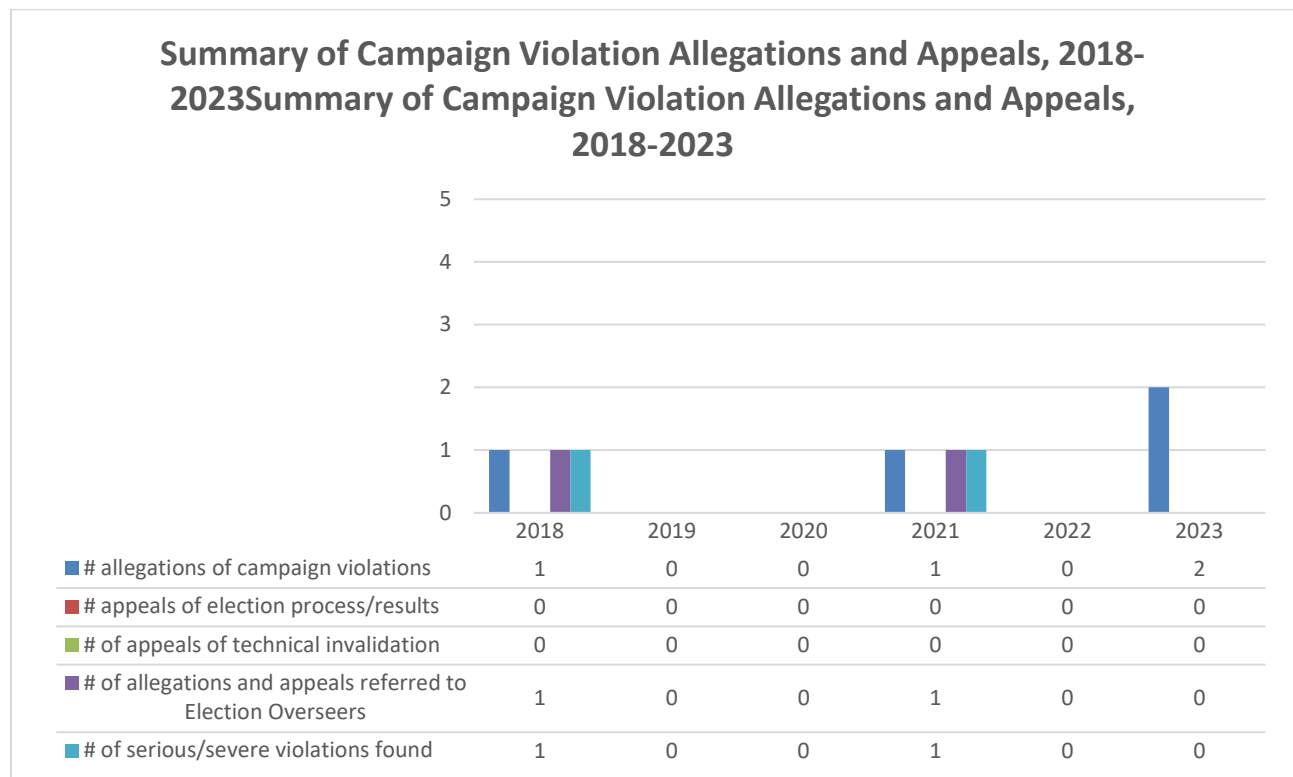
## 6. Appeals and Campaign Violations

There was no requirement for the Elections Committee of the Governing Council, in accordance with Section 7.8(b) of the *Election Guidelines 2023*, to meet as “Election Overseers” in 2023.

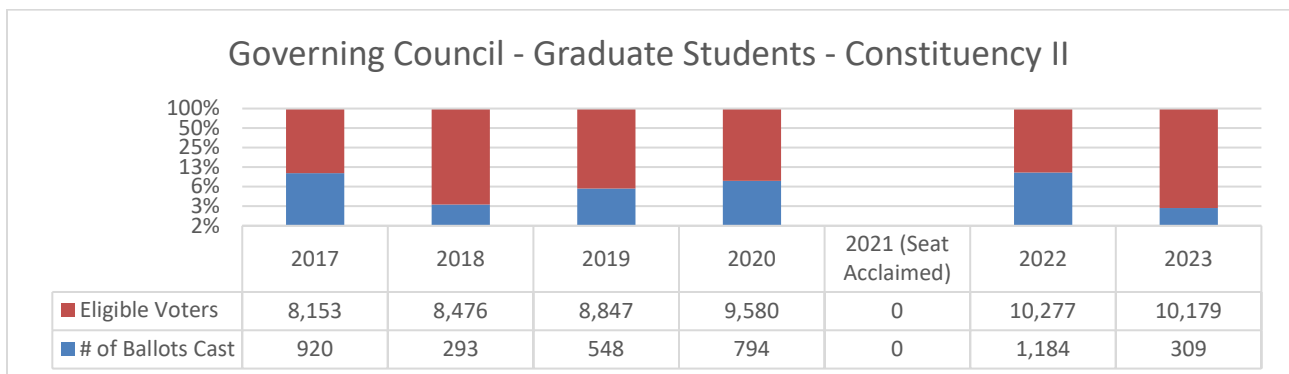
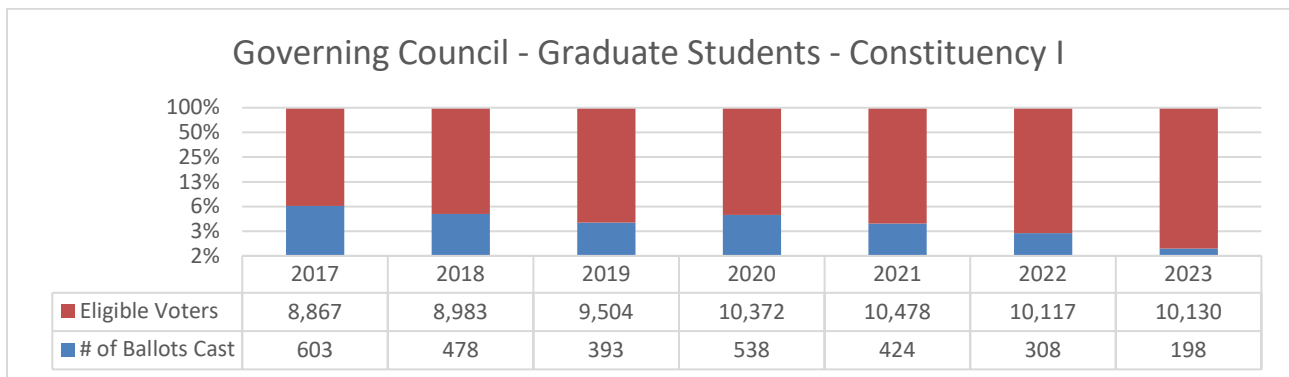
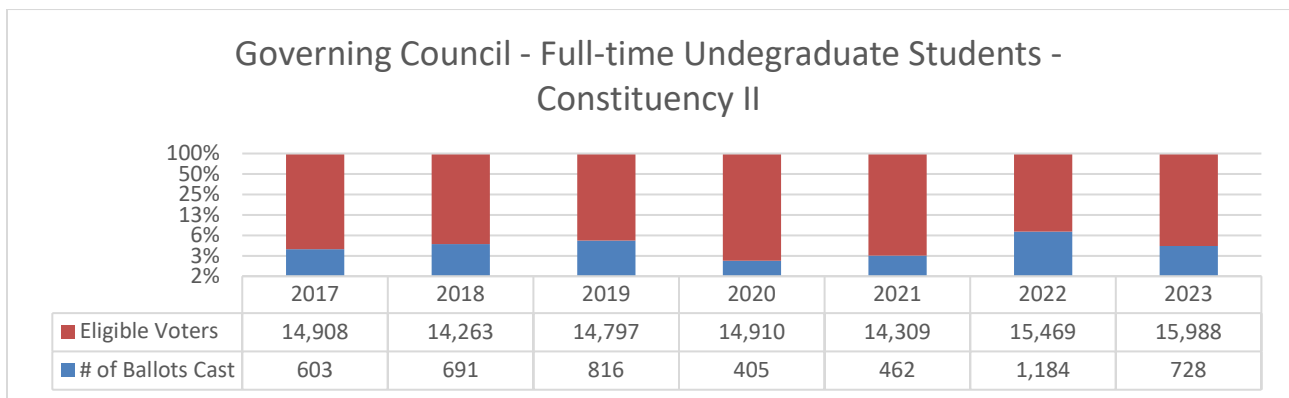
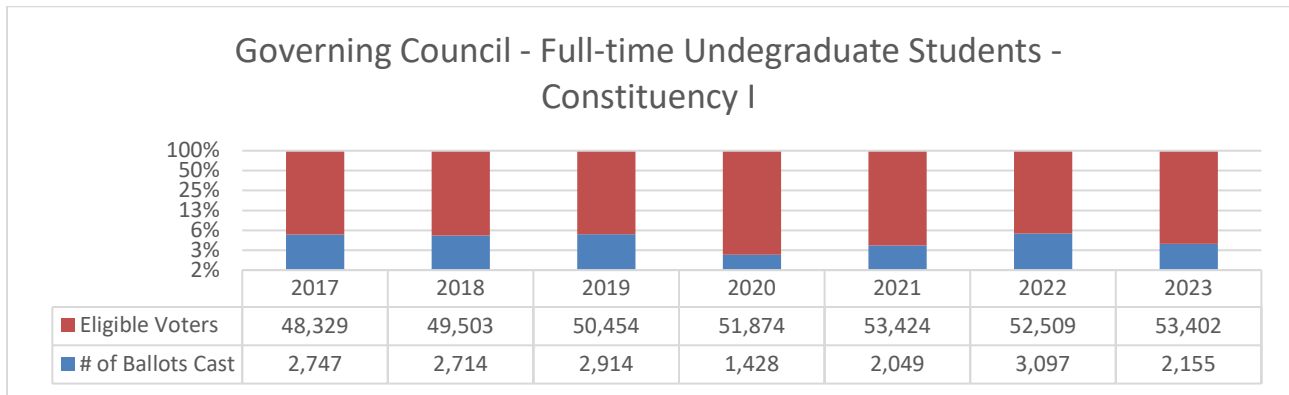
All candidates were sent an email during the campaign reminding them of the relevant sections of the *Election Guidelines 2023*, in particular Appendix A (*Guidelines for Campaigning and Enforcement of the Elections Guidelines 2023*).

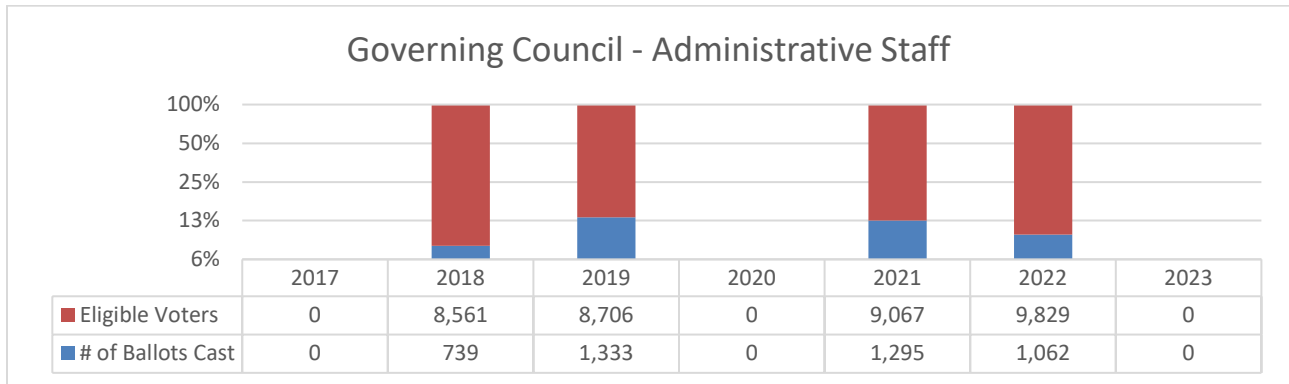
The number of allegations of campaign violations and appeals that have been made since 2018 are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 9: Summary of Campaign Violation Allegations and Appeals, 2018-2023**



**Table 10: Voting Results Governing Council, 2017 to 2023**





*\*Note: No elections required for Administrative Staff seat in 2017, 2020 & 2023*

**Teaching Staff Statistics**

Constituency II includes all Teaching Staff who hold their major appointments at the University of Toronto Mississauga

Constituency Size: N/A

# of valid Votes cast: N/A (N/A % Voters)

N/A – seat acclaimed

Constituency VII includes all Teaching Staff members 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

Constituency Size: N/A

# of valid Votes cast: N/A (N/A % Voters)

N/A – seat acclaimed

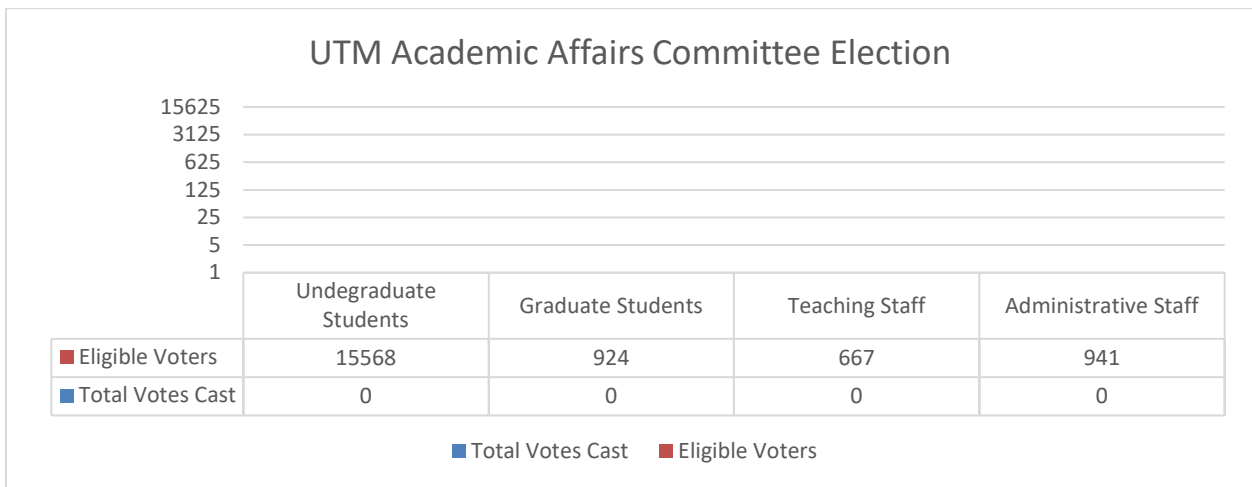
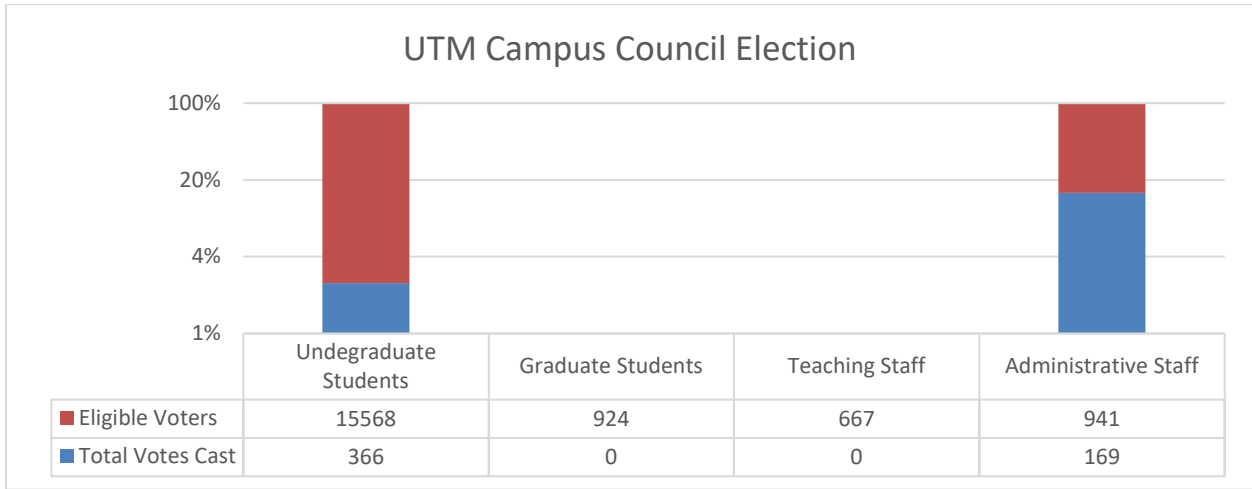
Constituency VIII includes all Teaching Staff members who hold their major appointments in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE)

Constituency Size: N/A

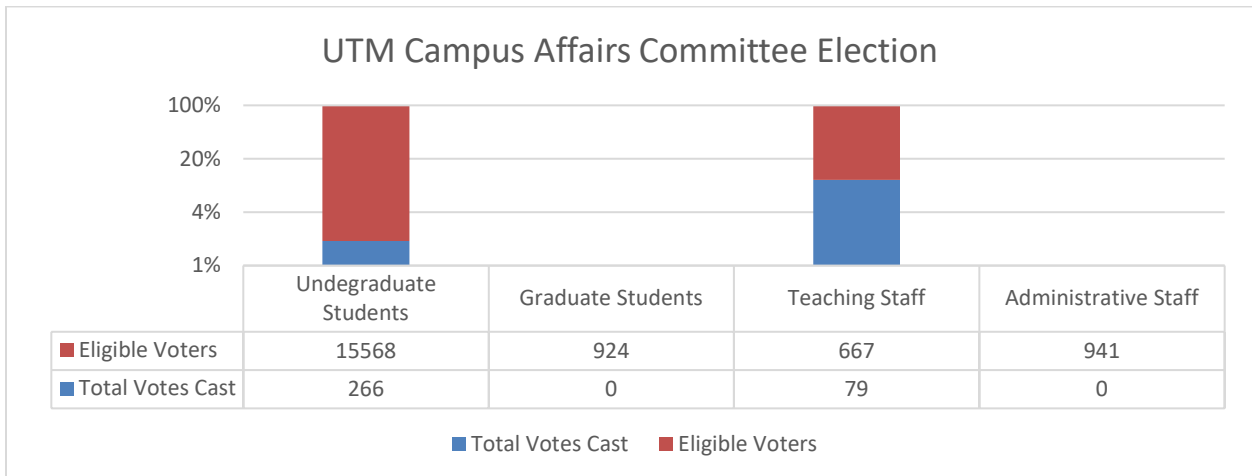
# of valid Votes cast: N/A (N/A % Voters)

N/A – seat acclaimed

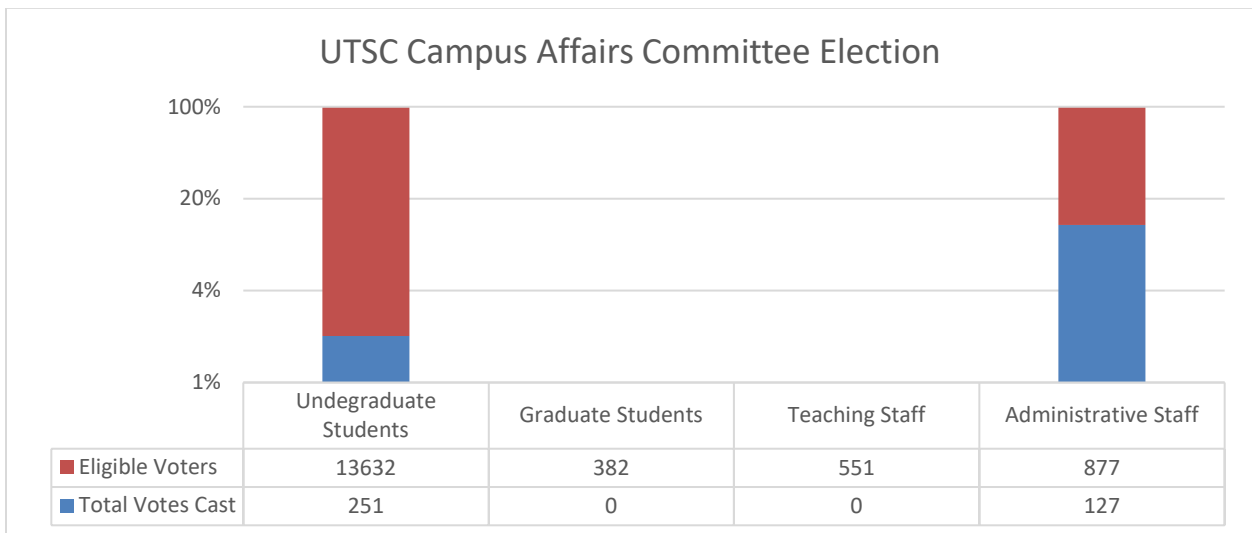
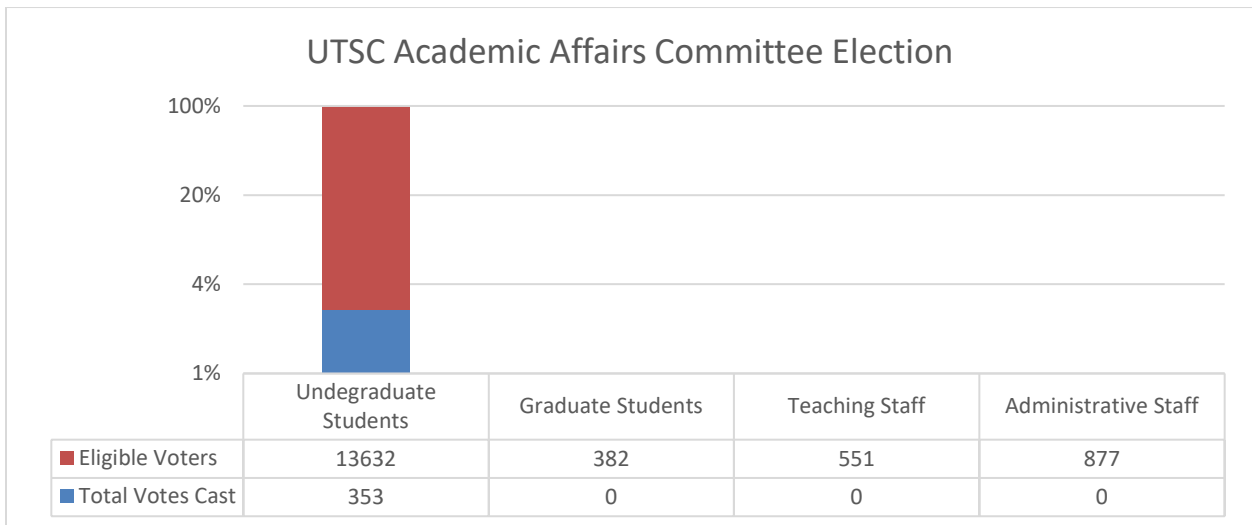
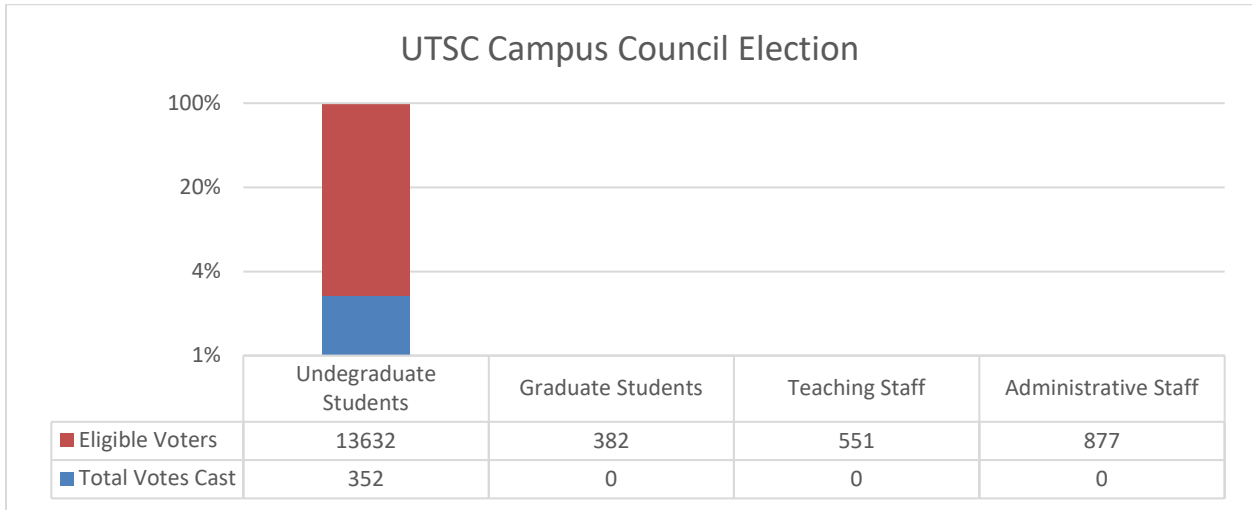
**Table 11: Voting Results UTM Campus Council, 2023**



*\*Note: no elections held for UTM AAC in 2023*



**Table 12: Voting Results UTSC Campus Council, 2023**





## 7. Preparations for 2024 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 with the support of all Designated Returning Officers will continue to explore new methods of engagement with the community and encourage participation in governance.

### **Recommendations:**

As part of an ongoing review, it is recommended that:

- i. there be continued engagement in equity, diversity, and inclusion; and
- ii. any further revisions of the *Election Guidelines 2023* to create the *Election Guidelines 2024* be discussed by the Elections Committee at its October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting.

Anwar Kazimi  
Chief Returning Officer

May 15, 2023