



**Report for the 2024 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 information about the 2024 Governing Council elections and to indicate areas for discussion and revisions to the *Guidelines* for future elections.

At a Governing Council’s Executive Committee meeting held on December 8, 2023, Mr. Timothy Harlick was appointed Chief Returning Officer assuming the role from Mr. Anwar Kazimi, who had successfully overseen the elections since 2010.

**2. Revision of the *Election Guidelines 2023* for 2024**

Several revisions to the *Election Guidelines 2023* were made to create the *Election Guidelines 2024*, as noted in the table below. The process involved an in-depth review by all Deputy Returning Officers (DROs).

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 improve clarity.

<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>Minor Changes to <i>Election Guidelines 2023</i> for Approval to create <i>Election Guidelines 2024</i></b>
<b>ALL RELEVANT SECTIONS</b>	<p>Minor editorial changes (i.e. updated web links; updated current list of elected members in all estates, etc.)</p> <p>Revised wording in all duplicated subsections to be consistent throughout (i.e. language for by-elections)</p> <p>Updated language from ‘Nominee’ and ‘Nominator’ to ‘Candidate’ and ‘Supporting Nominator’ to address confusion with terminology.</p>
<b>Sections 7.14, 8.15, 9.15, 10.15,</b>	Updated language regarding the online voting

<b>11.18</b>	platform used in elections.
<b>Sections 2.1, 7.4, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5</b>	Updated to reflect the 2024 election schedules.
<b>Sections related to nomination forms</b>	Updated language to remove paper-based references.
<b>Section 9.15(2)</b>	Deleted section regarding post-graduate medical trainees as they can use the new online voting platform.
<b>Appendix B</b>	Updated links regarding the use of posters on University property.

The Elections Committee approved the *Election Guidelines 2024* at its meeting on November 23, 2023. The revised *Guidelines* were effective January 1, 2024, and were publicly posted on the Office of the Governing Council’s *Elections* webpage.

### **3. Development of a Nomination Management System**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, aspects of the election process moved from in-person or paper based to an electronic format. While initial iterations appropriately addressed the immediate need, they also introduced a series of new challenges. Following the conclusion of the 2023 Election, development of an online portal to address some of those challenges was prioritized. The portal, known as the Nomination Management System (NMS), provides a more intuitive way for candidates to submit and track their nominations, and organizes and categorizes data for easier use by the DROs. The NMS was rolled out successfully during the 2024 Elections and feedback received by those who used the system was very positive.

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

As in previous years, many steps were taken to promote the elections for seats on the Governing Council, 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 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 and included focused communications and advertising, as well as election information sessions.

The 2024 Call for Nominations and Voting Period was publicized as follows:

- In-person information sessions were held on Tuesday, November 21 and Friday, November 24, 2023, for students; and on Friday, November 24, 2023, for teaching staff constituencies; invites to all students, administrative staff and teaching staff were sent the week of November 14, 2023; 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, 2023;
- Virtual information sessions for prospective nominees and candidates at UTSC were held on Monday, November 21, 2023.
- In a memorandum to all registered students sent on December 20, 2023;
- In weekly Vice-Provost Students' e-newsletters "*9 New Things*" in January 2024 (nomination period) and February 2024 (voting period);
- In a digital promotions strategy using electronic screens throughout UTM and UTSC;
- In December 2023, 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 2023 and January 2024;
- In customized e-mail messages sent to divisional leaders at all three campuses asking for assistance in promoting participation in the 2024 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 2024;
- 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 and March 2024);
- Announcement seeking candidates in the *UTM Express* (December 2023 and January 2024)
- On the U of T events webpage (<http://www.events.utoronto.ca>), during the campaign period;

- In a mass email sent on January 9, 2024, to all students and post-graduate medical trainees eligible to participate in the elections. Similar 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, 2024;
- 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);
- On LinkedIn and other social media platforms administered by University of Toronto, Communications; and
- Through a news article published to the Office of the Governing Council website entitled "*Connect. Collaborate. Inspire. Students on Governing Council*" and included experiences from a past student governor.

The methods listed above were also used to publicize the Voting Period in February 2024, 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.

## **5. Nominations**

### Governing Council

The nomination period for seats on the Governing Council, Academic Board and UTM and UTSC Campus Councils and their Standing Committees opened on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 12:00 noon and closed on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

The NMS was used to receive submissions for each constituency and access was made available both through the Governing Council website and e-mail notifications.

Upon the close of the nomination period, it was determined that Governing Council elections were required for six (6) student seats, one teaching staff seat in Constituency IA<sup>1</sup>, one teaching staff seat

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<sup>1</sup> All Teaching Staff members in the Faculty of Arts and Science who hold their major appointments in the Departments of Art History, 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)

in Constituency III<sup>2</sup>, one teaching staff seat in Constituency V<sup>3</sup>, one teaching staff seat in Constituency VI<sup>4</sup>, and one administrative staff seat.

Two part-time undergraduate student seats and one teaching staff seat in Constituency IB<sup>5</sup> were acclaimed.

The elected candidates in each of the required elections are listed below:

Administrative Staff: Mr. Vikram Chadawada (Student Life), re-elected.

Students

- Full-time Undergraduate Constituency I: Liam Dravid & Cameron Miranda-Radbord
- Full-time Undergraduate Constituency II: Luke Calabretta & Ankita Goyat
- Part-time Undergraduate: Akina Lalla & Maya Povhe, both acclaimed.
- Graduate Constituency I: Jovan Bursac
- Graduate Constituency II: William Verreault

Teaching Staff

- Constituency IA: Professor Donald Ainslie (Department of Philosophy).
- Constituency IB: Professor Ron Levi (Munk School and Department of Sociology), acclaimed.
- Constituency III: Professor Aarthi Ashok (Department of Biological Sciences, UTSC).
- Constituency V: Doctor Audrey Karlinsky (Family and Community Medicine, Temerty Faculty of Medicine).
- Constituency VI: Doctor Laurent Bozec (Faculty of Dentistry).

Academic Board

Fourteen (14) 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, 2024, to June 30, 2027. Upon the close of the nomination period, twelve (12) teaching staff seats were acclaimed with one (1) seat in the Faculty of Music and one (1) seat in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine remaining unfilled. The single librarian seat was also acclaimed.

The candidate who was elected by acclamation to the UTSC seat, was also successfully elected as a Teaching Staff member representing constituency II (UTSC) on Governing Council. As a result, the

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<sup>2</sup> UTSC

<sup>3</sup> All Teaching Staff members in the Faculty of Medicine. Members elected from the Faculty of Medicine may not be from the same Department within the Faculty

<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>5</sup> 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, School of the Environment, 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)

candidate vacated the seat on Academic Board and a fall by-election will be called to fill the vacancy.

A full 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 12th 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.

At UTM, there were 35 available seats in the various estates announced with the first call for nominations. Nominations were received for all vacancies and elections were required in the undergraduate student constituency of the Campus Council, in the teaching staff and administrative staff constituencies of the Campus Affairs Committee and in the undergraduate student, administrative staff and teaching staff constituencies of the Academic Affairs Committee.

At UTSC, nominations were received for all vacancies except one (1) graduate student seat on the Campus Council, 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, and administrative staff constituency for the Academic Affairs Committee and Campus Affairs Committee.

**Table 1: Summary of Nominations for the Governing Council Elections 2024**

<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, 2027)			
<u>Constituency IA</u>	1	2	0
<u>Constituency IB</u>	1	1	0
<u>Constituency III</u>	1	2	0
<u>Constituency V</u>	1	6	0
<u>Constituency VI</u>	1	4	0
<b>Administrative Staff Seats</b> (term ending June 30, 2027)	1	13	0

<b>Full-time Undergraduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)			
Constituency I (Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC)	2	26	0
Constituency II (Professional Faculties)	2	8	0
<b>Part-time Undergraduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)	2	2	1
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)			
Constituency I (Humanities & Social Sciences: Divisions I & II)	1	8	0
Constituency II (Physical & Life Sciences: Divisions III & IV)	1	3	0

**Table 2: Summary of Nominations for the Academic Board Elections 2024**

<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, 2027)			
<u>Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering</u>	1	1	1
<u>Faculty of Arts and Science</u>	4	4	1
<u>Faculty of Dentistry</u>	1	1	0
<u>Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy</u>	1	1	1
<u>Temerty Faculty of Medicine</u>	3	2	0
<u>Faculty of Music</u>	1	0	1
<u>Ontario Institute for Studies in Education</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, 2027)	1	1	0
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**Table 3: Summary of Nominations for the UTM Campus Council Election 2024**

<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, 2027)	1	1	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2027)	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, 2025)	3	10	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)	1	1	0

**Table 4: Summary of Nominations for the UTM Academic Affairs Committee Election 2024**

<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, 2027)	1	2	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2027)	9	10	0
<u>Eligible Departments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Psychology, Institute for the Study of University Pedagogy, Historical Studies, Economics, Sociology, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology, Management, Chemical &amp; Physical Sciences, Institute for Management &amp; Innovation.</i></li> </ul>			



<b>Undergraduate Students</b> <i>full- and part-time students</i> (term ending June 30, 2025)	5	10	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)	2	2	0

**Table 6: Summary of Nominations for the UTM Campus Affairs Committee Election 2024**

<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, 2025)	1	2	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)	3	4	0
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> <i>full- and part-time students</i> (term ending June 30, 2025)	5	5	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)	1	1	0

**Table 6: Summary of Nominations for the UTSC Campus Council Election 2024**

<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, 2027)	1	1	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2027)	2	2	1
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)	3	8	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)	1	0	1

**Table 7: Summary of Nominations for the UTSC Academic Affairs Committee Election 2024**

<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, 2027)	1	2	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2027)	7	6	0
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> <i>full- and part-time students</i> (term ending June 30, 2025)	5	5	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)	2	2	1

**Table 8: Summary of Nominations for the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee Election 2024**

<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, 2027)	1	1	0
<b>Administrative Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2027)	1	2	0
<b>Teaching Staff</b> (term ending June 30, 2027)	4	2	0
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> <i>full- and part-time students</i> (term ending June 30, 2025)	5	5	0
<b>Graduate Students</b> (term ending June 30, 2025)	1	1	0

## 6. Election Process 2024

### 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, 2024; and for teaching staff candidates on January 27, 2024. The Deputy Returning Officers (DROs) held information sessions at UTM and UTSC on January 24, 2024, 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 2024*. It was made clear to each candidate that they agreed to be bound by the rules of the *Guidelines* when their candidate nomination forms were submitted. Candidates were also asked to review their statements, which would be published online on the Elections website 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 29, 2024, to Friday, February 16, 2024. All eligible students were able to vote online from Tuesday, February 6 to Friday, February 16, 2024, 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 6, 2024, to Friday, February 16, 2024.

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

In the 2023 election, the Office of Student Life introduced a new web portal voting platform, *Simply Voting*, replacing the previously used *U-Elect* platform. This platform, while its primary purpose is to facilitate elections for student groups, can also accommodate Governing Council elections. The CRO was actively involved in its RFP and briefed on its capabilities. The transition to *Simply Voting* was seamless, with no significant issues reported during the Governing Council election, except in a small number of cases where individuals were unable to vote due to recent appointments or specific constituency ineligibility.

The successful implementation of *Simply Voting* in the 2023 election led to its continued use in the 2024 election. Given its proven effectiveness and reliability, *Simply Voting* will be the platform of choice for future elections.

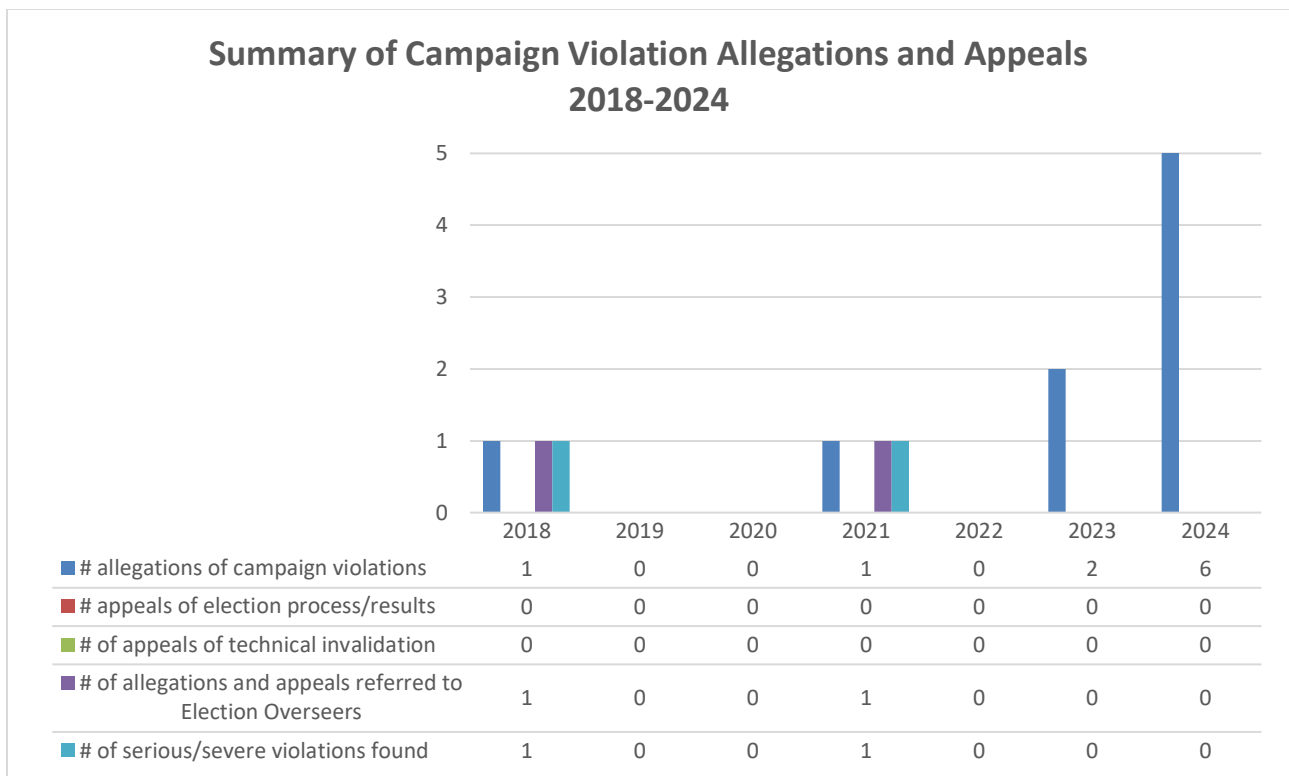
## 7. Appeals and Campaign Violations

There was no requirement for the Elections Committee of the Governing Council, in accordance with Section 7.8(b) of the *Election Guidelines 2024*, to meet as Election Overseers in 2024.

All candidates were sent an email during the campaign reminding them of the relevant sections of the *Election Guidelines 2024*, in particular Appendix A (*Guidelines for Campaigning and Enforcement of the Elections Guidelines 2024*).

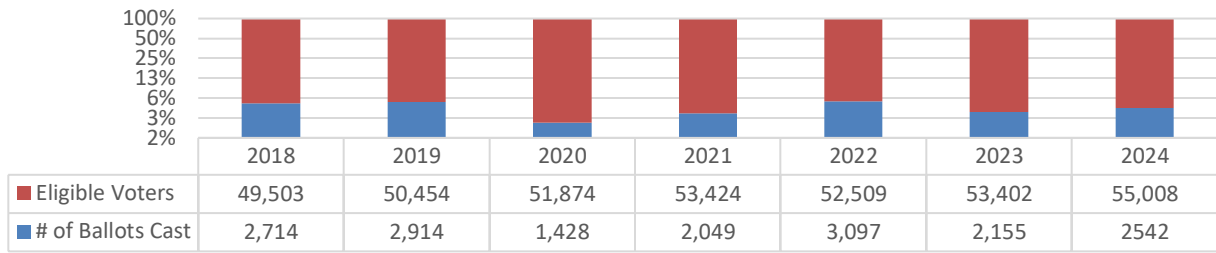
The number of allegations of campaign violations and appeals that have been made since 2018 are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 9: Summary of Campaign Violation Allegations and Appeals, 2018-2024**

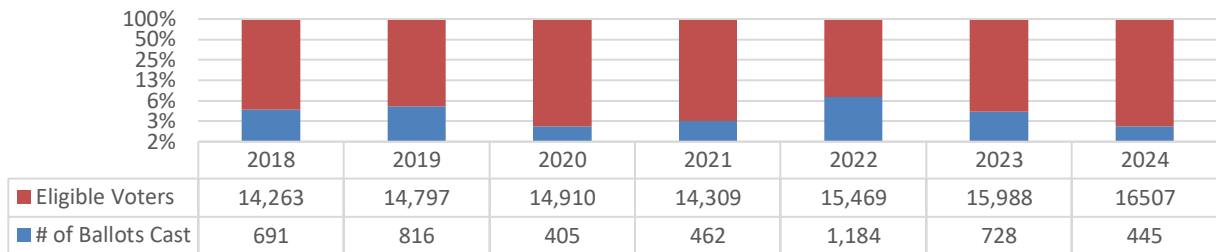


**Table 10: Voting Results Governing Council, 2018 to 2024**

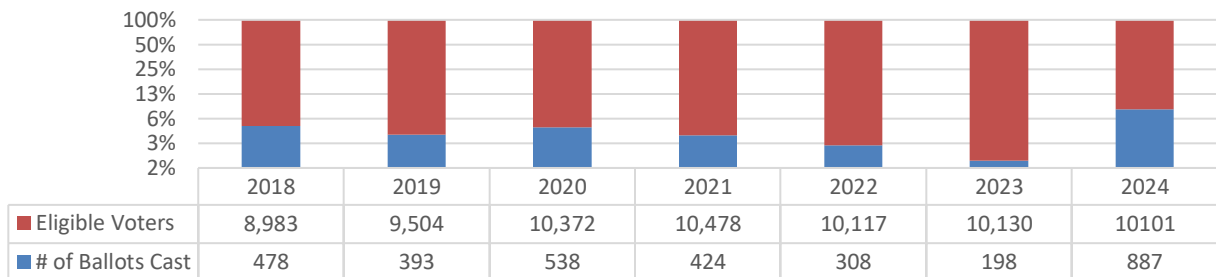
### Governing Council - Full-time Undergraduate Students - Constituency I



### Governing Council - Full-time Undergraduate Students - Constituency II

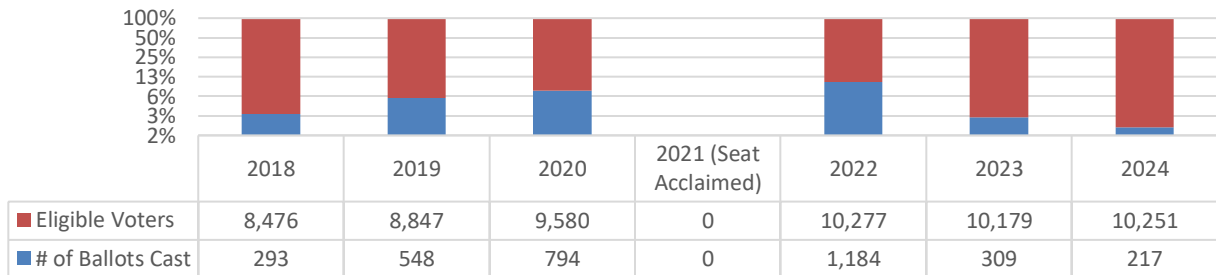


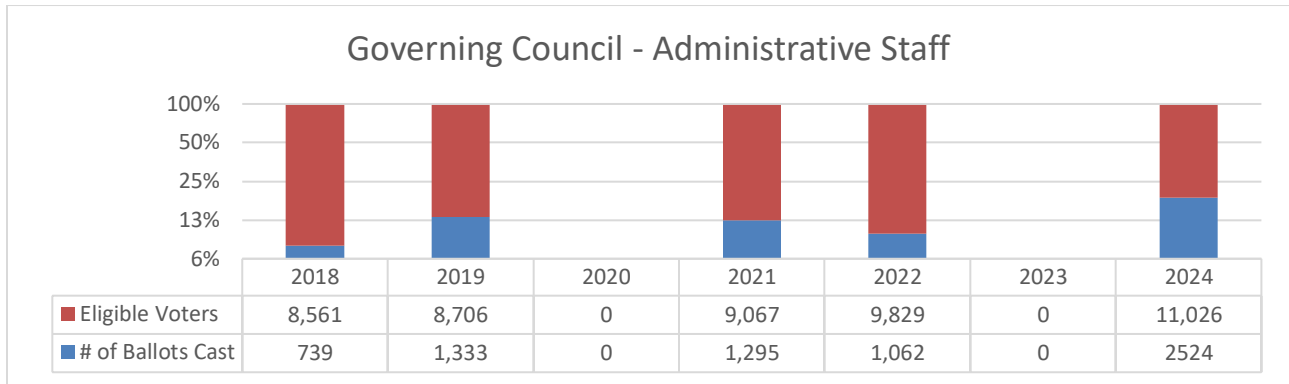
### Governing Council - Graduate Students - Constituency I



*Note: No elections required for part-time undergraduate student seats in 2024.*

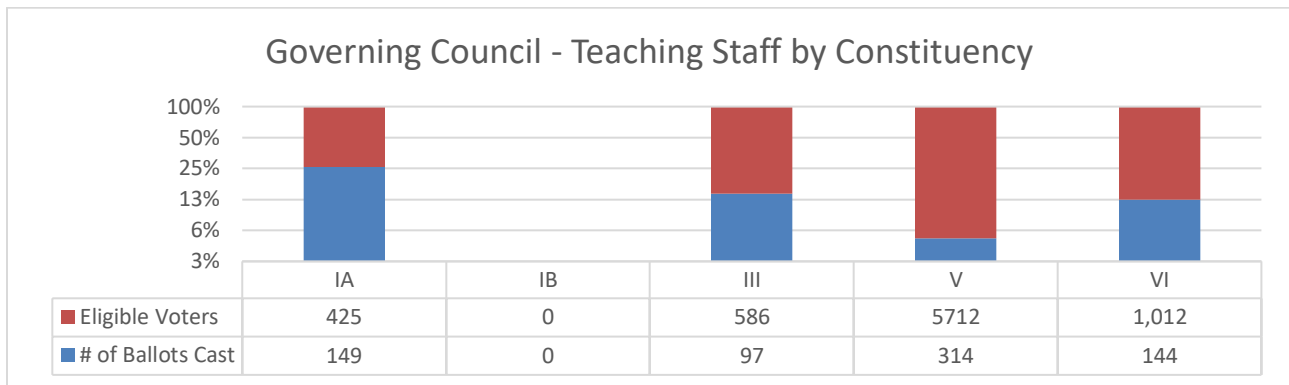
### Governing Council - Graduate Students - Constituency II





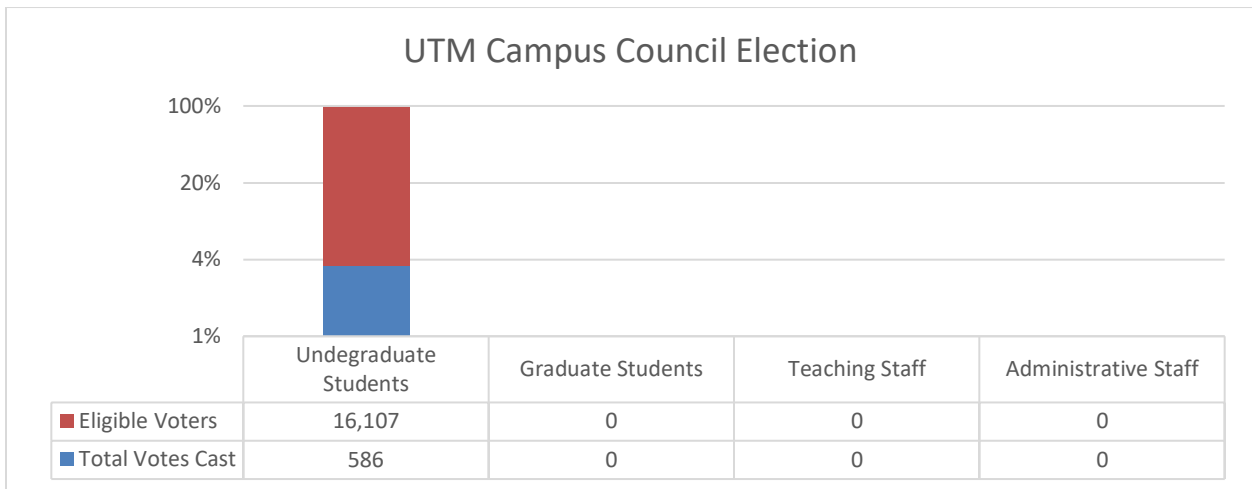
*Note: No available Administrative Staff seat in 2020 & 2023*

**Table 11: Voting Results Governing Council Teaching Staff by Constituency, 2024**

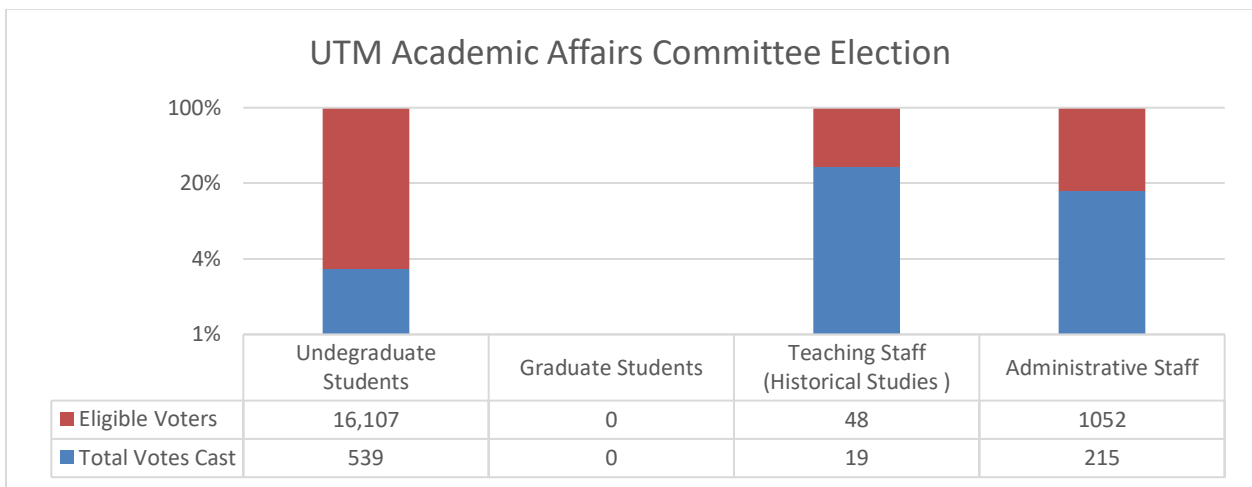


*Note: No elections required for Teaching Staff in Constituency IB in 2024*

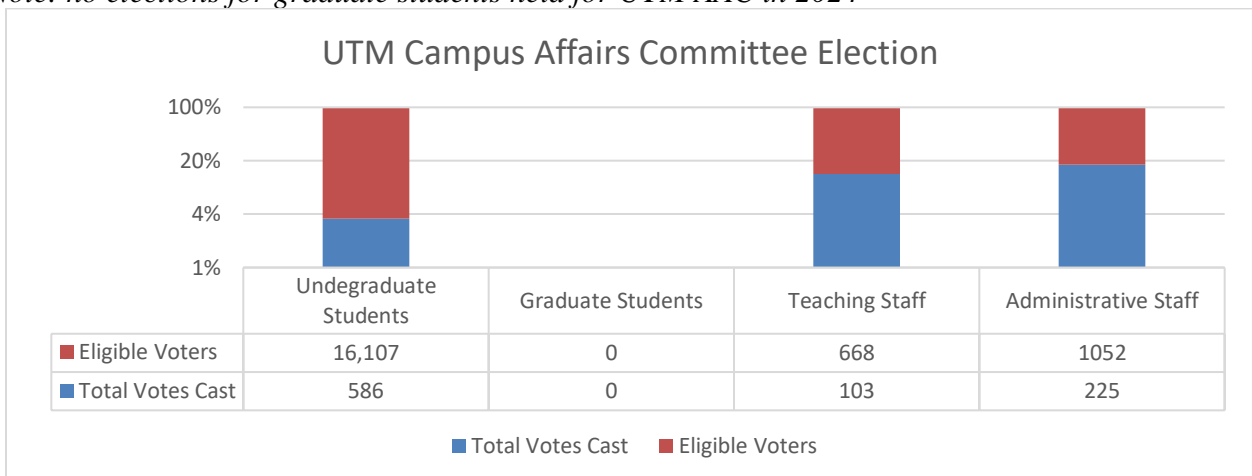
**Table 11: Voting Results UTM Campus Council, 2024**



*Note: no elections for graduate students, teaching staff, or administrative staff held for UTM CC in 2024*

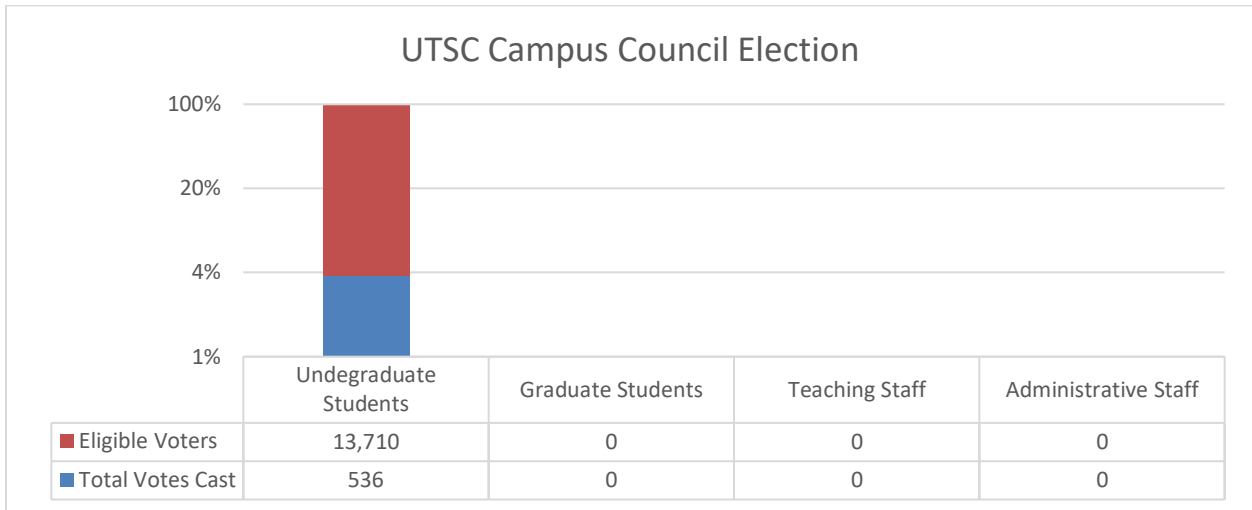


*Note: no elections for graduate students held for UTM AAC in 2024*

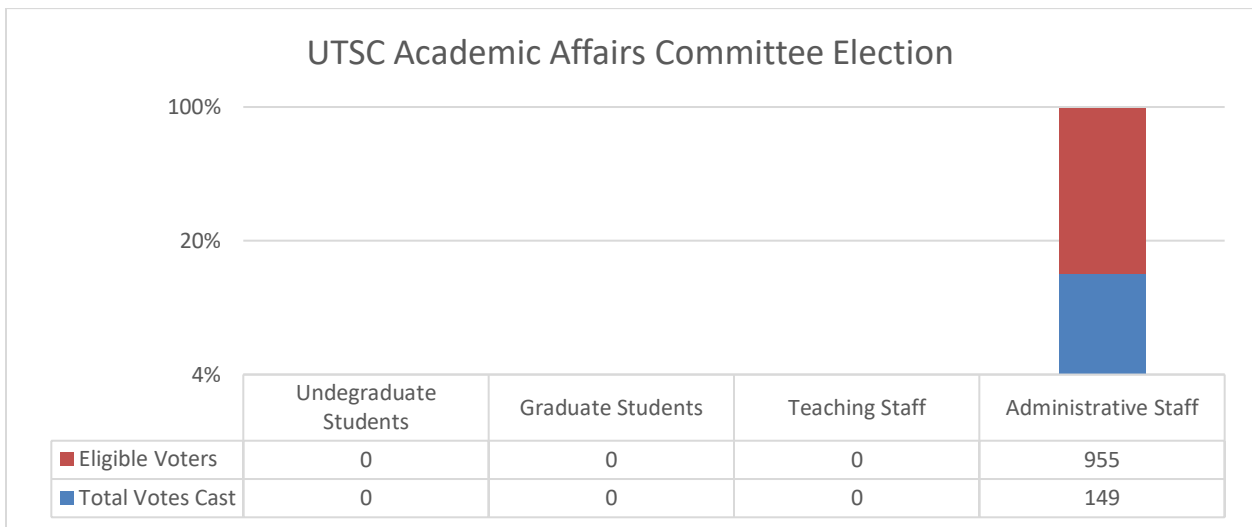


*Note: no elections for graduate students held for UTM CAC in 2024*

**Table 12: Voting Results UTSC Campus Council, 2024**

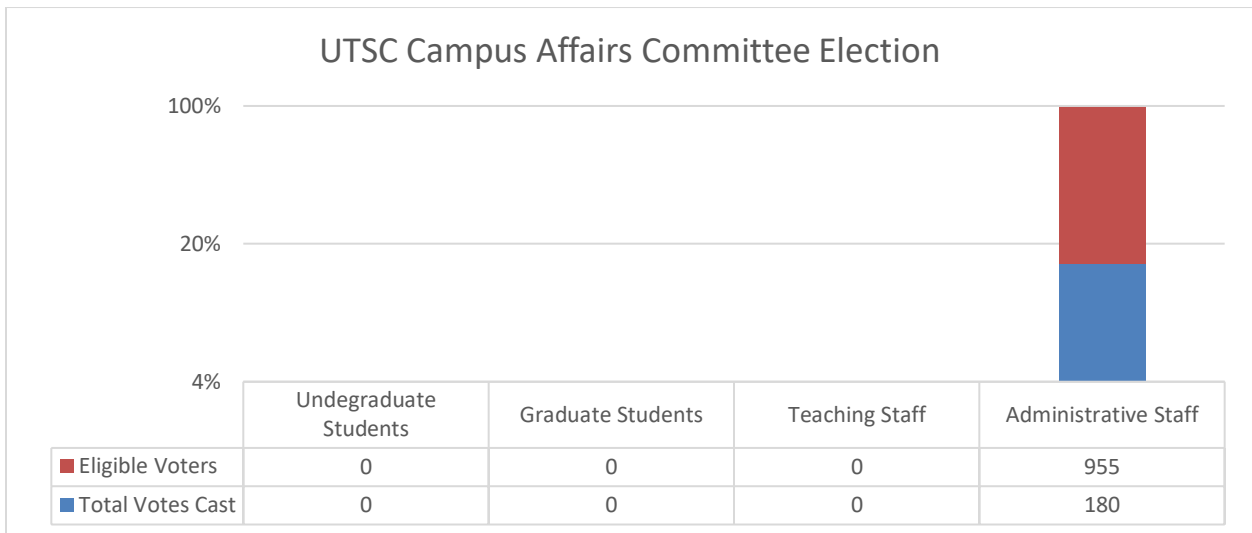


*Note: no elections for graduate students, teaching staff, or administrative staff held for UTSC CC in 2024*



*Note: no elections for undergraduate students, graduate students or teaching staff held for UTSC AAC in 2024*





*Note: no elections for undergraduate students, graduate students or teaching staff held for UTSC AAC in 2024*

## 8. Preparations for 2025 Elections

Engagement data captured over the past 3 years indicates a promising trend in the initial participation for the nomination process. The number of participants has seen an increase, doubling from approximately 200 in each of the elections in 2021-22 and 2022-23 to 400 in 2023-24. This growth suggests that the outreach and advertising initiatives and efforts of the Returning Officers are resulting in greater interest and awareness from the constituencies.

The introduction of the NMS is one such initiative that has contributed to this increase. By creating efficiencies and reducing the manual work associated with an election, the NMS has allowed the DROs to dedicate more time to engagement efforts with the University community.

Despite this year's encouraging increase in nomination participation, voter turnout continues to be an area to improve. The CRO and DROs are committed to exploring new methods of engagement to encourage greater participation in governance elections.

### Recommendations:

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

- i. there be an increased emphasis on constituency outreach and education on the importance of governance at the University; and
- ii. a review and revision of the *Election Guidelines 2024* to create the *Election Guidelines 2025* be undertaken by the Office of the Governing Council and discussed by the Elections Committee at its October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting.

Timothy Harlick  
Chief Returning Officer

May 23, 2024

