



College of Electors – A Quick Overview

What is the College of Electors?

The College of Electors (College) is a group consisting of members representing the constituent alumni associations of the University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA).

When was the College of Electors created?

The College was established by the Governing Council of the University in 1971, following its approval of a proposal from the UTAA. The first meeting of the College was held in January 1972.

What is the purpose of the College of Electors?

The members of the College are responsible for electing the Chancellor and the alumni members (alumni governors) of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

What governs the operation of the College of Electors?

The *Constitution* of the College of Electors (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/conelect.htm>) sets out the duties, composition, general rules and regulations and process for the election of the alumni members of the Governing Council and for the election of the Chancellor. The Vice-President – University Governance of the UTAA serves as the Chair of the College. The Vice-Chair of the College is elected annually by the College from among its members. The Executive Committee of the College includes the Chair, Vice-Chair and three other members elected by and from among the members of the College.

Who supports the work of the College of Electors?

There is a permanent Secretary appointed by the Secretary of the Governing Council who keeps a record of the proceedings of the College and Executive Committee meetings. The current Secretary of the College is Mae-Yu Tan (email: maeyu.tan@utoronto.ca); phone: 416-978-8794).

How large is the College of Electors?

There are 45 members of the College representing 26 constituent alumni associations. A constituent alumni association is defined as a group of alumni of a college, faculty, school or other academic division of the University that has authority to recommend the awarding of a degree or post-secondary diploma or certificate.

How are members of the College of Electors chosen from their individual alumni association?

Each constituent alumni association is responsible for electing members to the College based on the following population representation:

<u>Number of Alumni</u>	<u>Number of Electors</u>
Up to 15,000	1
Between 15,001 and 30,000	2
Between 30,001 and 45,000	3
Beyond 45,000	4

Election of each member of the College is carried out at a regular meeting of the constituent alumni association. It is usually recommended that individuals elected to serve as members of the College are experienced and knowledgeable in University affairs, such as present or former members of the alumni association’s executive committee. It is the responsibility of each constituent alumni association to provide the names of the College member(s) annually to the Secretary of the College by early September.

What is the length of term served by a member of the College of Electors?

Pursuant to Section IV 6 of the Constitution of the College, the term of office is at the discretion of each individual constituent alumni association to a maximum of four consecutive years. The term starts July 1st.

How does the College of Electors achieve its purposes?

The members of the College normally meet four times during each academic year.

- At the first meeting, members introduce themselves, they receive an orientation to the work of the College and of the Governing Council of the University, and they elect the Executive Committee and the Nominating Committee.
- At the second meeting, members of the College consult formally with Chair of Governing Council, the President of the University, and the President of the UTAA.
- At the third meeting, members of the College review the nominations received for alumni governor, select the candidates that will be interviewed, and finalize details of the interview process
- At the fourth meeting, the selected candidates are interviewed, and members of the College elect the required number of alumni governors.

What is the Governing Council?

The Governing Council is the senior governing body that oversees the academic, business and student affairs of the University. It was established by the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, and is composed of 50 members drawn from faculty, staff and students of the University as well as members of the community at large:

- The **President** and **Chancellor** of the University serve by virtue of their positions (*ex officio*)
- **18 appointed** members
 - 16 individuals appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council
 - 2 senior administrators appointed by the President
- **30 elected** members
 - 12 teaching staff
 - 8 alumni
 - 8 students: 4 full-time undergraduate, 2 part-time undergraduate, 2 graduate
 - 2 administrative staff

What is the role of the Alumni members of the Governing Council?

Members of the Governing Council serve as trustees of the University. They oversee the management of the University and ensure that the decisions that are made by the Council are in the best long-term interests of the University.

An effective member of the Governing Council:

- is informed about issues and process
- asks relevant questions
- exercises his/her vote

What is the role of the Chancellor?

The Chancellor holds the most senior non-executive position in the University and is elected by the alumni. The duties of the Chancellor include presiding over all convocations, chairing the Committee on Honorary Degrees, representing the University at public functions and working closely with the President of the University and the Chairman of Governing Council. The Chancellor's term is three years in length. S/he is eligible for re-election for a second three-year term.