

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

### COLLEGE OF ELECTORS

Minutes of the College of Electors meeting held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, at which the following were present:

Dr. Françoise Ko (In the Chair)	Mr. Paul Morrison (Law)
Mr. Doug Allen (Architecture, Landscape, and Design)	Mr. Peter Murchison (Social Work)
Dr. Pauline Blendick (OISE)	Ms Florence Newman (Victoria)
Ms Sadia Butt (Forestry)	Mr. Lennox Phillips (Mississauga)
Ms Ruhee Chaudhry (Community Health)	Dr. Betty Power (OISE)
Ms Tiffany Chow (Engineering)*	Ms Linda Prytula (Pharmacy)
Dr. Don H. Cowan (Medicine)	Mr. Devin S. Ragwen (UTSC)
Ms Celeste Francis (Woodsworth)	Ms Patricia Robb (Physical Education and Health)
Mr. Pierre François (OISE)	Professor Peter Russell (Trinity)
Dr. Magdalena Goledzinowska (SGS)	Ms Barbara Salmon (Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy)
Mr. Aran Hamilton (Rotman)	Mr. Gordon Shantz (UTM)
Mr. Craig Hegins (New)	Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai (SGS)
Ms Erica Henderson (University)	Ms Ann Sullivan (St. Michael's)
Ms Victoria Hurlihey (University)	Ms Nancy Sutherland (Victoria)
Mr. Garry Kwan (UTM)*	Mr. Colin Swift (New)
Mr. Scott MacKendrick (Engineering)	Ms Liz Terry (OISE)
Dr. Claire Mallette (Nursing)	Ms Maria Topalovich (Music)
Ms Pamela McPherson (Victoria)	Mr. William Wrigley (Woodsworth)
Mr. Michael Meth (Information Studies)	
Mr. John Minardi (St. Michael's College)	

#### Regrets:

Dr. Vic Chiasson (Innis)	Professor Mary Condon (SGS)
Ms Ann Clarke (UTSC)	Mr. Jason Wong (University)
	Dr. Carolyn Poon Woo (Dentistry)
	Mr. Rajesh Uttamchandani (SGS)

\*participated via telephone conference

Secretary: Ms Mae-Yu Tan

Guests: Mr. John F. (Jack) Petch, Chair, Governing Council+  
Professor David Naylor, President, University of Toronto+  
Mr. Louis Charpentier, Secretary of the Governing Council  
+present for items 2 and 3

The College met *in camera* to consider items 2, 3, 8, and 9.

#### 1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed members of the College, noting that two members were participating in the meeting by teleconference. She also welcomed the following new members:

- Dr. Magdalena Goledzinowska, School of Graduate Studies
- Mr. John Minardi, St. Michael's College

On a motion duly moved, seconded, and carried, the College moved *in camera*.

## **2. Presentation of Report of the Chancellor Review/Search Committee**

The Report of the Chancellor Review/Search Committee was presented to the College.

## **3. Election of the Chancellor of the University of Toronto**

The College held an election for the Chancellor by secret ballot. Once the ballots had been counted, the Chair announced that the Honourable David R. Peterson had been unanimously re-elected as Chancellor of the University of Toronto for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2009.

The College moved to Open Session.

## **4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – November 19, 2008**

The minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2008 were approved.

## **5. Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.

## **6. Overview of Required Skills Identified by the Chair of the Governing Council**

The Chair reviewed the desired skills and characteristics of future alumni governors that had been identified by the Chair of Governing Council at the November 2008 meeting. She asked members to consider the following attributes when making decisions about which candidates to invite to an interview:

- desire and ability to serve as a skilled ambassador for post-secondary education and for the University
- willingness to invest a significant amount of time to activities in support of the University
- ability to deal with complexity and apply good judgment, and willingness to consider varying perspectives
- have diverse experiences/perspectives
- potential to rise to positions of leadership - international exposure and experience in the global context would be helpful in this area
- possess strong connections within the community
- backgrounds in sectors such as biotechnology and information technology, communications, finance or entrepreneurship

## **7. Procedures for Evaluation of Candidates for Alumni Governors**

The Chair introduced a suggested refinement of the College's procedures for evaluation of candidates for alumni governors that had been discussed at the Executive Committee's last meeting. She noted that, for a number of years, the College had invited short-listed candidates to interviews with the full College. However, over time, the College had found that highly-qualified people had often been reluctant to put their names forward because they did not wish to participate in an interview with forty or more individuals. As well, unsuccessful candidates were often reluctant to let their names stand in successive years because of the possibility of having to reappear before such a large group. The Executive Committee had discussed the value of developing a revised approach to the evaluation process that would strengthen it and that would also improve candidates' experiences. It was the opinion of the Committee members that the ability to engage candidates in a smaller group setting would likely be more effective than in an interview with forty or more people.

## **7. Procedures for Evaluation of Candidates for Alumni Governors (cont'd)**

The Chair stated that the Executive Committee was recommending that the interviews of the candidates be conducted by the Committee, rather than the entire College. Such a process was provided for by the College's Constitution. Through the proposed refinement, the College would continue to contribute strongly to the evaluation process and reserve the final decision with respect to the election of alumni governors. The suggested steps included the following.

- The College would participate in the development of a short list of perhaps four candidates to be invited to attend an interview with the Executive Committee.
- The College would approve the set interview questions to be used.
- The Executive Committee would conduct interviews of the most suitable individuals.
- The Committee would then select those whom they would recommend to the College for election as alumni governors.
- Following the interviews, the Executive Committee would report back to the College at its final meeting of the year, outlining the reasons for their recommendation of the top candidates.
- A vote by secret ballot on the Committee's recommendation would then be held by the College.

During the College's discussion, the following points were raised.

### **a) Candidates' Public Speaking Ability**

Some members were of the view that an interview of a candidate by the entire College allowed members to assess the candidate's ability to articulate their opinions in front of a large audience in a formal setting. A few members felt that such an environment was comparable to that of a meeting of the Governing Council, where members might be required to speak in highly charged situations. A number of members expressed a preference to hear and see the candidates themselves, rather than receiving a report of an interview by a delegated body. Members felt that the selection of alumni governors was an important function of the College that would best be carried out with the full participation of all members in the interview process.

A few members expressed support for the motion, noting that in a "real world" situation, it would be unusual to have so many interviewers on a panel. They were of the opinion that it was possible to evaluate candidates' communication skills in a smaller group setting.

### **b) Format of the Interview Process**

In general, members supported the suggestion to streamline the interview process by short-listing candidates to be interviewed and to hold longer interviews with fewer people. It was not necessary to interview candidates who did not meet the minimum criteria for alumni governors. One member suggested that the interview questions be provided to candidates in advance, so that they would have an opportunity to better prepare for the meeting with the College. In considering the formality of the setting, a member wondered whether it might be possible to rearrange the layout of the Council Chamber to minimize the daunting effect that it appeared to have on some candidates. A suggestion was made to seek feedback on the interview process from successful as well as unsuccessful candidates in order to make improvements in the future. Members were willing to consider a refinement of the interview process in the future.

## **7. Procedures for Evaluation of Candidates for Alumni Governors (cont'd)**

A member asked for, and it was accepted that there be, a recorded vote.

On the recommendation of the Vice-Chair,

It was duly moved and seconded

That authority to conduct interviews of candidates for alumni governor be delegated to the Executive Committee and two co-opted members of the College of Electors, effective immediately.

The motion failed.

The Secretary noted that there were 6 votes in favour of the motion, 31 against, and no abstentions.

Documentation is attached hereto as [Appendix "A"](#).

On a motion duly moved, seconded, and carried, the College moved *in camera*.

## **8. Review of Nominations Received**

The College reviewed the nomination forms that had been received.

During the discussion, a member asked whether the College should implement a policy of prohibiting candidates from submitting letters of support or nomination signatures from relatives as part of their application package for alumni governor. In his opinion, such conflicts of interest should be avoided. While members agreed that such a practice might be desirable, in practice, it would be difficult to carry out. The Chair suggested that the matter be reconsidered when the nomination form was reviewed by the College in the Fall, 2009.

## **9. Review of Set Questions**

The College reviewed the set questions.

The College moved to Open Session.

## **10. Mentoring Program**

Mr. Swift reported that he had received some feedback on the mentoring initiative from members of the College. It appeared that members were supportive of a one-to-one pairing of experienced and new members. Mr. Swift asked members to submit any final feedback to him by Friday, April 3, 2009. He would then canvass members with respect to their interest in participating in the program in the coming year.

## **11. Biographies of Members**

The Chair stated that a few members had responded to Ms Clarke's call for feedback on the proposed collection of biographical information from members. While one respondent had been vehemently opposed, the majority had been in favour of the optional provision of a biography that could be used by the College. Members would have an opportunity to review the type of information that was being sought when the biography template was distributed prior to the final meeting of the College in April.

**11. Biographies of Members (cont'd)**

Some members cautioned that the information provided should not be too personal, as it would be available to the public. The Chair assured members that their addresses would not be posted online with their biographies.

**12. Nominations for Executive Committee 2008-2009**

The Chair stated that Mr. Garry Kwan, Dr. Betty Power, and Ms Maria Topalovich were members of the College's 2008-2009 Nominating Committee. The Committee was now seeking nominations to the 2009-2010 Executive Committee.

Invited by the Chair to speak, Ms Topalovich commented on the nomination process. She explained that a Vice-Chair and three other members would be needed to serve on the Executive Committee in 2009-2010; the Chair of the College served as Chair of the Executive Committee. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are to advise the Chair on electoral procedures and to undertake duties as assigned by the College. Ms Topalovich stated that, as had been evident this past year, the Executive Committee played an important role in the College.

Outlining the selection process, Ms Topalovich said that the Nominating Committee would review the submitted nomination forms and would recommend a slate for the Executive Committee to the College at the fall meeting. With respect to the time commitment, Committee members would need to attend approximately three meetings for the year in addition to the four regular meetings of the College. Members were encouraged to nominate themselves or others to serve on the Executive Committee. However, members in their first year on the College were ineligible to serve. The deadline to submit the completed and signed nomination form to the Secretary was Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair said that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m, as the date that had originally been scheduled for the College's interview meeting, Wednesday, April 8, 2009, was the beginning of Passover. The first interview would be scheduled for 5:45 p.m.

**14. Other Business**

The Chair stated that the 2009 Call for Applications for alumni co-opted (non-Governing Council) members of the Academic Board and the University Affairs Board had been sent by email on Friday, March 20, 2009 to the University community. Members were asked to encourage well- qualified alumni to consider submitting an online application form to serve in 2009-2010.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chair

April 3, 2009