



**2011 Governing Council Elections  
Student Candidates' Statements**

**Full-Time Undergraduate Students – Constituency I  
(Faculty of Arts and Science; University of Toronto Mississauga; University of Toronto at Scarborough)**

<p><b>Erik Bracciodieta</b> My name is Erik Bracciodieta and I am asking for your vote. I am in third year and have had it up to here with governance. Do you know who your current representatives are? Thought so. If you elect me, I will promise to be open and listen to your ideas and concerns. I stand for greening our campus (like banning the sale of bottled water), reducing corporate influence, speaking up for the university's largest group (undergrads!) and wise, ethical spending of our tuition.</p>	<p><b>Nicole Fogel</b> Hello! I am from the United States and I like to travel and ski. I would describe myself as being understanding, punctual, and dependable. Throughout high school, I was involved in Disability Walks, National Honor Society (Secretary), and had work experience at an Ophthalmologist's office. Here at the University of Toronto, I have further enhanced my capacity to effectively guide others by becoming involved in the Faculty of Arts and Science Council, French Club, and Eyes of Hope Volunteer Club during my first year. With your help, I hope to make a memorable difference for the University of Toronto community. URL: <a href="mailto:nicole.fogel@utoronto.ca">nicole.fogel@utoronto.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Sowmya Kshatriya</b> Sowmya Kshatriya is a second year student in the Faculty of Arts and Science at University of Toronto, St. George Campus working in a Genes, Genetics and Biotechnology specialist program. She has displayed tremendous leadership qualities during her high school years and received many awards and certificates as a School House Leader, Class President, Class Prefect, Student of the Month and Student of the year. Her motivation to run in the elections is to serve as a sincere member of the Governing Council helping to support the University's mission and all its concerns zealously with all dedication. <a href="http://www.utsu.ca/index.php/section/5">http://www.utsu.ca/index.php/section/5</a></p>	<p><b>Ron Leung</b> As a student who passionately believes in student activism and bettering campus life, I thank you for taking the time to contribute toward shaping your university experience by partaking in this year's Governing Council elections. Listening equally to all three campuses is imperative and as a candidate from UTSC, I promise you that all campuses' concerns and ideas will be voiced. Please feel free to express your own addendum towards my proposed platform. And needless to say, please express the changes you would like to see happen within our university that can be affected by my candidacy. Best, Ron Leung.</p>

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**Full-Time Undergraduate Students – Constituency I (cont'd)**

<p><b>Aly Madhavji</b>          Together, we can improve our University. I understand and relate to the many difficulties surrounding academics, social life, and diversity experienced by domestic and international students. With an understanding of the financial burden we students face, I promise to strive for lower tuition fees or tuition freeze and will work towards reducing parking and residence rates across all campuses. I hope to work with you and will always be open to each of your concerns and suggestions. You can contact me at <a href="mailto:aly.madhavji@utoronto.ca">aly.madhavji@utoronto.ca</a> and join the Facebook Group: 'Vote Aly Madhavji for Governing Council'. Together, We Can Make a Difference!</p>	<p><b>James Y.K. Park</b>          My name is James Yong Kyun Park, and I'm a third year student studying English and Sociology. As a current member of the Governing Council, I would love the opportunity to continue the work that I've been involved in this past year. Such items include removing the costs associated with reviewing a past written exam, offering students who are currently paying tuition on a course by course basis the option of program fees, and advocating for the implementation of a self-declaration of illness. I promise to continue working with the students' best interest in mind. Vote James Yong Kyun Park.</p>
<p><b>Jorge Prieto</b>          Hello, My name is Jorge Prieto and I am excited to run for Governing Council. I propose practical but important changes to make our lives at university better, no matter what academic year or background we may come from. We can reduce tuition by paying only for classes we are taking (abolish flat fees). We can improve course selection (no more worrying about ROSI waiting lists). We can empower clubs and societies. In general, we can alleviate unnecessary burdens to enhance our experience. Because, as a wise man once said: we cannot let our schooling interfere with our education.</p>	<p><b>Lindsay Tegler</b>          "Vote Lindsay Tegler! The University of Toronto is a network of students, staff, and faculty who work together to create our experience here. Together, we have interests and aspirations for the university that overlap and diverge, bringing us to debate and negotiation. The Governing Council has an important role in realizing this by making sensible decisions with this notion of interdependence. I intend to work on behalf of students and our organizations to promote communication and mutual understanding between students and the Governing Council. My hope is to facilitate sincere communication between all affected by governing policies. Vote TEGLER."</p>

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<p><b>Dean (Di) Wu</b> Dean is currently finishing his second year at University of Toronto at Scarborough. Having lived in parts of China, New York, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Ontario, Dean loves exploring different cultures, especially when it comes to international cuisines! Regardless of the various locations he has lived in, Dean has been consistently involved in his community as he has served as the Vice-president during high school years and worked as an assistant program supervisor for his community centre. Dean is running for this position because of his desire to continue to contribute to his community and make friends along the way.</p>	<p><b>Bill Zhao</b> Dear fellow students: the time has come. Cast your ballot for Bill. For I will listen to your voices, fight for your rights, and make sure you get what you deserve. It's your university, it's our university. And united, we have the power to shape our tomorrow. Together, we will make U of T an even better place for all!</p>
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**Full-Time Undergraduate Students – Constituency II (Professional Faculties)**

<p><b>Cary Ferguson</b>          During his undergraduate studies, Cary researched student advocacy issues for the Vice President (Education) of the McMaster Students Union. Cary also helped set policy at three general assemblies of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. As a law student, Cary spends many of his days discussing policy and the law. Cary's experience with student advocacy and the law make him uniquely suited to ensure that student needs and concerns are taken into consideration by the Governing Council. When he's not promoting student issues, Cary enjoys photography, losing at squash, and naps in the library. For more information, please see <a href="http://www.about.me/caryferguson">www.about.me/caryferguson</a>.</p>	<p><b>Nicholas Gan</b>          Hello fellow students! My name is Nicholas Gan and I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate student currently enrolled in chemical engineering. I want to become a member of the Governing Council because I want to be the voice for the U of T community. I want to be the person that everyone can come to when there is a problem. I want to make sure that every person has their voice heard. Most of all, I want everyone at U of T to experience the best university life of their lives. Vote Nicholas Gan for member of Governing Council!</p>
<p><b>Kent Kuran</b>  <a href="http://www.KentKuran.com">www.KentKuran.com</a>          As an active 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Engineering Student and your returning Student Governor, I will strive to represent the professional faculty students. I believe that all disciplines should be equal at UofT, including Engineering and the other professional programs. Not only do we unjustly pay more and get less, but we are also excluded from the wider UofT community. We should have equal access to Courses, Colleges and Residences. If re-elected, I will continue to work in these areas while reaching out to the student body. Vote Kent Kuran again!  <a href="mailto:kent.kuran@utoronto.ca">kent.kuran@utoronto.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Azadeh Mostaghel</b>          I believe we need to work for a better tomorrow. We have to govern our university not only for building our future, but also for shaping the future of our nation. Some believe "the future is not a gift, it is an achievement." University of Toronto has to take the lead to out-educate its students so that they can out-innovate others in a very competitive world. University of Toronto is a world-class institution and it should contribute to training the leaders of tomorrow not just for Canada but also for the world in many fields and locations.</p>

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**Full-Time Undergraduate Students – Constituency II (Professional Faculties) (cont'd)**

<p><b>Ayo Odutayo</b> Ayodele Odutayo is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical student at UofT. He currently serves as the medical director of the UofT International Health Program (UTIHP): A role in which he oversees over 20 campus-wide global health initiatives and advocates for increased global health opportunities for students. Ayodele is also a member of the Faculty of Medicine Appeals Committee and has worked as an intern at the World Health Organization to conduct a study on knowledge management. If selected to the governing council, he will place a specific focus on financial support for students and the appropriate distribution of funds among Faculties.</p>	<p><b>Manveen Puri</b> I graduated from New College in 2009 and am now in my second year of medicine. With six years of experience in student leadership at UofT, I bring a mature yet fresh perspective to Governing Council. Students are ultimately UofT's <i>raison d'être</i>, and I believe we can achieve practical results if we approach issues with reason rather than passion. I will keep the interests of professional students in mind on each vote, and as your representative will advocate for affordable tuition fees, greater links between professional faculties, a more sustainable UofT, and open communication with the administration. Vote Manveen Puri! <a href="http://www.manveenpuri.ca">www.manveenpuri.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Manisha Verma</b> I am a recent graduate from University of Toronto's Medical Doctorate program. I am currently pursuing a residency in Family Medicine at University of Toronto. Over the years, I have developed a keen interest in becoming involved with academia in ways that make a difference. Building on this, I now have a desire to help shape the university's strategic direction. I believe that my passion for education, strengths, and sincere aspiration to contribute to the institution that has provided me with such a thoughtful and quality education, make me an ideal candidate for a position on the 2011/2012 Governing Council.</p>	

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**Part-Time Undergraduate Students**

<p><b>Ken Davy</b> The need for financial support. The need for classroom availability and accessibility. The need for experienced representation at the Governing Council level. These are all challenges facing part-time students. I'm Ken Davy and a fourth year student with three years of Governing Council experience. As a part-time student, parent, and small business owner, I understand the challenges we face. I'm asking for your vote this year to become the voice of part-time students on Governing Council. I've worked hard to expand the financial resources available to part time students, and plan to continue this effort. Read more at <a href="http://kendavy.wordpress.com">kendavy.wordpress.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Maria Pilar Galvez</b> Vote Maria Pilar GALVEZ to be your part-time undergraduate representative on the Governing Council. As an executive of two UofT unions, I recognized issues students face in accessing post-secondary education and acknowledged systemic barriers our own University holds. I sit on the Erindale College Council as a part-time representative, articulating that needs of part-time students differ from those full-time. I want to keep part-time student interests a priority and to communicate with all students, faculty, and staff so that we may work together to achieve affordability and accessibility, and to create the University experience our current governance withholds. Vote GALVEZ!</p>
<p><b>Dustin Hiles</b> Dustin Hiles is dedicated to bringing a students-first policy to his Governorship at U of T. By engaging students through monthly town halls and round tables, Dustin will be an advocate for accountability to the student body, making his vote yours! ALL policy decisions will be based solely on the wants and needs of his constituents allowing for a real student voice on the Governing Council. <a href="http://Dustinhiles.blog.com">Dustinhiles.blog.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Brian Kerr</b> I am running for the Governing Council because I feel that I can offer a unique and essential perspective to the Council. I was a full-time student of the University of Toronto in the 1970's; I am now a part-time student completing my degree. I am also the father of a current University of Toronto student, a Certified General Accountant and an employee of the students of The University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (as the Chief Account for the Scarborough Campus Students' Union.) I expect to be able to use these to represent all the part-time students at the University.</p>

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**Graduate Students, Constituency I (Humanities and Social Sciences)**

<p><b>Jessica Anania</b> Holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Ryerson University and is currently enrolled to complete her MBA at the Rotman School of Management. Prior to her MBA, Jessica worked on a political campaign for the 2008 Federal Election. From there she went to work in an entrepreneurial setting in a family company, learning the fundamentals of business.</p>	<p><b>Frank Samuels</b> Frank Samuels – I am a part-time MEd student in TPS at OISE, with a full time commitment to listen to, discuss with and work with you as we continue to build our university. I stand for integrity, honesty, building trust and establishing safe comfortable environments of and for exceptional teaching and learning. Let's work together! URL: <a href="http://www.youandme4uoft.org">http://www.youandme4uoft.org</a></p>
<p><b>Oliver K. Sorin</b> As representative on Governing Council, I will continue to push the University to upgrade its academic infrastructure for graduate students (the number of professors in departments, accessible resources, space and equipment, and better email services). I will also press for an increase in the funding package so that students in humanities and social sciences can be on equal footing with their colleagues in divisions 3 and 4. Furthermore, I will ensure that there are more services and campus space for graduate students to help us interact and learn outside of the classroom. Thank you in advance for your support.</p>	<p><b>Morgan Vanek</b> An outspoken advocate for an equitable, accessible, and publicly accountable university both within the English department and as Chief Steward for CUPE 3902, I've worked hard this year to critique and diminish barriers to engagement in the important work of governing this institution. While organizing TAs across campus in pursuit of better working and learning conditions, I've also come to appreciate the many concerns we share for the future and direction of our diverse degree programs, our funding, and our academic freedom, and I remain committed to reminding our Governing Council that these should be its priorities, too.</p>

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**Graduate Students, Constituency II (Physical Sciences and Life Sciences)**

<p><b>Jenny Hong</b> As your representative, I aim to push for an increase in our sources of financial support, particularly for students who are in their sixth year (or above) of PhD studies. I also aim to push for an expansion in student services (such as housing, career and academic counseling), student benefits/discounts, and campus space available for graduate students. Previously, I was a member of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee, accessing and evaluating new curriculum proposals in order to create a better learning environment for the students. Similarly, I commit to being a strong voice for all graduate students. Vote for Jenny Hong.</p>	<p><b>Mu-Qing Huang</b> More SUSTAINABLE university policies and practices? More Teaching Assistant positions? More professional networking opportunities? More academic support? We deserve them all. As an M.Sc. student in Forestry Economics, I bring a GREEN and FRESH perspective into practical issues that matter the most to my fellow students. I have been serving the various U of T student groups since 2006; my familiarity with the campus operates as a loyal bridge between you and your university. Genuine, experienced, passionate, strategic and dedicated, Mu-Qing has a strong voice that speaks YOUR concerns. Cast your vote, and expect a change next year!</p>
<p><b>Keven Roy</b> Graduate students fulfill a crucial part of the University's mission, and representation of our interests is crucial. As a Ph.D. student in the Physics Department, I have been involved with the departmental student union, as well as in various initiatives and clubs around campus. I will be a strong voice for graduate student interests, and I will make sure I am always available to hear and voice your concerns as a graduate student and member of the University of Toronto community, as well as being proactive in its improvement and development.</p>	<p><b>Chirag Variawa</b> Thank you for choosing to make an educated vote – I represent being clear, concise and credible. I have a fulfilling history with this university and city, am a member of several successful clubs, and value this learning experience enough to pursue a Ph.D. degree. I've seen and helped UofT grow, and know we can become even better with strong leadership and well-defined core values. I value honesty, transparency, accessibility, and respect for others. By voting for Chirag Variawa, you are voting for realistic progressive action that will help all learners be the best they can be. For specifics visit, <a href="http://www.chiragvariawa.com">www.chiragvariawa.com</a></p>

Questions about the Governing Council elections process may be directed to the Chief Returning Officer, Mr. Anwar Kazimi (416-978-8427; [anwar.kazimi@utoronto.ca](mailto:anwar.kazimi@utoronto.ca)), or the Deputy Returning Officer, Ms Mae-Yu Tan (416-978-8794; [maeyu.tan@utoronto.ca](mailto:maeyu.tan@utoronto.ca)).