

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 68 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
November 15, 2012

To the Executive Committee,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the Mississauga Room (Room 133), Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor William Gough (Chair)
Mr. P.C. Choo
Mr. Michael Donnelly
Ms Shirley Hoy
Mr. Nykolaj Kuryluk

Secretariat:

Ms Mae-Yu Tan, Secretary
Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Chief Returning Officer

In Attendance:

Mr. Louis Charpentier, Secretary of the Governing Council

With the agreement of members, the order of the agenda items was altered to allow consideration of Item 2, *Elections Policy*, first.

1. ***Elections Policy***

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Louis Charpentier, Secretary of the Governing Council, provided some background on the authority of the Elections Committee. He noted that the Governing Council's authority for conducting its elections was contained in the *University of Toronto Act, 1971* (Section 2.14 (nb)). Under the *Act*, the Elections Committee's Terms of Reference provided for the Committee's delegated authority to oversee elections of the Governing Council and its bodies. In October, 2011, the Terms of Reference of a number of Boards and Committees of the Governing Council had been revised as an outcome of the work of the Task Force on Governance. At that time, the Committee's areas of responsibility had been amended to include responsibility for reviewing and recommending for approval elections policy. In considering the development of an elections policy, it had become clear that the key statements that might be included in such a policy were embedded in the revised Terms of Reference and the principles outlined in the *Election Guidelines* were sufficient. Minor

REPORT NUMBER 68 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

1. *Elections Policy* (cont'd)

amendments to the *Guidelines*, which addressed procedural matters, were approved by the Committee, while major amendments were approved by the Executive Committee. It was now apparent that a separate elections policy was not needed at this time, but one could be developed in the future, whenever necessary. The Committee agreed that there was no need to develop an *Elections Policy* at present.

2. *Election Guidelines 2013*

The Chair provided an overview of the steps that had been taken to gather input from the University community in preparing the draft *Election Guidelines 2013* and outlined the proposed governance approval process.

Following detailed discussion of Section 11 of the *Guidelines*, a new section that addressed election processes for the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) Campus Councils (CCs) and their Standing Committees, the Committee agreed to the following.

- The four student seats on the UTM and UTSC CCs should be distributed as follows: two full-time undergraduate, one part-time undergraduate and one graduate seat.
- The nine student seats on the UTM and UTSC CC Academic Affairs Committees (AAC) should be distributed as follows (subject to Governing Council approval on December 13, 2012 of the proposed increase in student seat membership for UTSC): five full-time undergraduate, two part-time undergraduate and two graduate seats.
- The seven student seats on the UTM and UTSC CC Campus Affairs Committees (CAC) should be distributed as follows: five full-time undergraduate, one part-time undergraduate and one graduate seat.
- Elections for all elected constituencies (administrative staff, librarians, students and teaching staff) of the following bodies should be held concurrently during the 2013 election period outlined in the *Guidelines*: Governing Council, Academic Board, UTM and UTSC CCs, AACs and CACs.
 - The successful candidates elected to serve on the Governing Council and Academic Board would be announced on March 1, 2013.
 - The election results for the UTM and UTSC CCs, AACs and CACs would be announced on April 11, 2013, following the approval by Governing Council of governor appointments to the UTM and UTSC CCs, AACs and CACs.¹
- Separate appeal periods would be required: one following the announcement of the election results on March 1st and another following the announcement of the election results on April 11th.

¹ The delay in the announcements would ensure that any decisions regarding Governing Council appointments to CCs and their Standing Committees would not have been influenced by the election results. The Elections Committee recognized that such an approach would require candidates to wait approximately one month following the end of the voting period before learning of the election results. However, the Committee was of the view that such an approach, while not ideal, would be the fairest.

REPORT NUMBER 68 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

2. *Election Guidelines 2013* (cont'd)

- A statement on the primacy of the Governing Council should be included in the *Guidelines* in order to establish the body on which a candidate must serve if he/she was elected to more than one body. For example, if a candidate won a seat on both the Governing Council and a Campus Council, the candidate would be declared elected for the Governing Council only. The development of such a statement was essential, so that an individual who chose to run for a seat on multiple governance bodies would be informed of the possible outcomes prior to the start of the election period.
- Information regarding the impact of possible Governing Council appointments on the number of seats available to be filled by elected candidates should be included in the *Guidelines*. Given the UTM/UTSC CC membership outlined in the Terms of Reference, it was possible that an elected, non-governor candidate might not serve on the UTM/UTSC CC if a seat from the candidate's constituency was filled first by a governor appointed by the Governing Council to the CC, under the concurrent elections model. Such a scenario was a possible outcome for part-time undergraduate and graduate students because one seat had been allocated for each of those constituencies. Candidates should be asked to sign a statement indicating that they had read and accepted these specific terms of the elections, in addition to accepting the other terms contained in the *Guidelines*.
- Among the teaching staff elected to serve a) as non-Governing Council members on the CCs or b) as non-CC members on the AAC or the CAC, no academic unit should have more than one representative, in order to encourage broad representation.
- In the event that an individual chose to run for a seat on multiple governance bodies, the maximum spending limit permitted for campaign expenses would be that assigned to the highest governance body for which the individual campaigned. For example, if an administrative staff member chose to run for a seat on both the UTSC CC and the UTSC CAC, the member would be permitted to spend only the amount assigned for a CC campaign.

Members commented that, since the *Guidelines* were reviewed annually, there would be ample opportunity to learn from and modify the elections processes, as appropriate.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the *Election Guidelines 2013*, attached hereto as "Appendix A", be approved.

REPORT NUMBER 68 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

3. Distribution of Elected Seats on Governing Council and Academic Board

The Chair summarized the feedback that had been provided at the consultation sessions held at each of the three campuses in early November with respect to the distribution of elected seats on the Governing Council and Academic Board, and members commented on the written input that had been provided to date. The Chair noted that, although any approved changes would not be implemented until the 2014 election period, the Secretariat would need to work with other offices to ensure a smooth transition. For that reason, it would be preferable to have any recommended changes approved by the Governing Council no later than the June 27, 2013 meeting. The Committee agreed to continue its discussion with respect to this matter in the New Year.

4 Report of the Previous Meeting -Report Number 67 (October 4, 2012)

Report Number 67 (October 4, 2012) was approved.

5. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the Report of the previous meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair asked members to note the appeal dates that had been set as part of the 2013 election schedules. In the event that an appeal was submitted, the Committee might be required to meet as the Election Overseers to consider the appeal.

7. Other Business

There were no items of other business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Secretary
November 25, 2012

Chair