

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 76 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

September 29, 2016

To the Executive Committee,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in the Falconer Room, Room 107C, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Mr. Jeff Collins (Chair)
Mr. PC Choo
Mr. Andrew Szende
Ms Susan Froom

Regrets:

Professor Sal Spadafora

Secretariat:

Mr. David Walders, Secretary
Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Deputy Secretary of the Governing Council and Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
Mr. Patrick McNeill, Assistant Secretary of the Governing Council and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)
Ms Cindy Ferencz-Hammond, Assistant Secretary of the Governing Council and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)*
Ms Amorell Saunders-N'Daw, Assistant Secretary of the Governing Council and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)*

**Participated by teleconference.*

1. Welcome/Introductions.

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2. Overview of Mandate & Terms of Reference

The Chair provided an overview of the Committee's mandate and highlighted its areas of responsibility as outlined in its *Terms of Reference*, including its composition. One of the Committee's stated area of responsibility was to review and recommend for approval the policy on elections. While there was not a separate document on "elections policy", the *Election Guidelines* and the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, each contained elements which together

REPORT NUMBER 76 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

were considered the elections policy. He added that the *U of T Act* also spoke to a number of areas related to Governing Council membership and elections.

The *Act* empowered the Governing Council to determine the manner and procedure of election of its members. The *Act* also authorized the Governing Council to set constituencies and assign administrative staff, student, and teaching staff to these constituencies, which could be characterized as subgroups within each estate. The Committee also oversaw the elections process and the CRO would present an Elections Report to the Committee at the May, 2017 meeting.

Turning to Elections Guidelines, the Chair noted that an important function of the Committee was to review annually the *Election Guidelines* and approve any minor amendments. The draft *2017 Guidelines* would be considered by the Committee at the next meeting. Recommendations for “major” amendments to the *Guidelines* would be forwarded by the Committee to the Executive Committee for approval. Given the nature of three of the proposed amendments for 2017, if recommended by the Committee, these amendments would be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval.

As in past years, the 2017 elections schedule would start with the opening of the nomination period in January, through the campaign and voting period in mid-February, the appeals period, and ended with any hearings regarding election expenses towards the end of March.

The Chair then discussed the important role of the Committee as election overseers. In this role the Committee would be empowered to consider any appeal of a decision of the CRO as well as any appeal or other question arising from the conduct of the elections as outlined in the *Guidelines*. Mr. Kazimi, the CRO, noted that the decision by the Committee to permit the office of the CRO to provide greater guidance to candidates and campaigns had resulted in a sharp decline in oversight hearings to address alleged campaign violations.

3. Calendar of Business

Mr. Kazimi noted that a central function of the Committee would be to consider the *Election Guidelines 2017* at its next meeting, with a view to recommending them to the Executive Committee for approval.

4. Preliminary Discussion - Election Guidelines 2017

Mr. Anwar Kazimi provided a preliminary report on the proposed revisions and update to the *2017 Guidelines*, reiterating that three of the changes were considered “major” changes, requiring the approval of the Executive Committee. Members asked for points of clarification on the proposed changes, which was provided by Mr. Kazimi. Mr. Kazimi informed the Committee that aside from the three “major” changes, there were other changes that were administrative in nature.

REPORT NUMBER 76 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made, seconded and carried

IT WAS APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and the items on it approved.

5. Report of the Previous Meeting - Report Number 75 (May 24, 2016)

The report of the previous meeting was approved.

6. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

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

7. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 22, 2016, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

8. Other Business

Mr. Kazmi reported on the results of recently held by-elections.

It was agreed that the Secretary would endeavor to alter the date/time of the next meeting of the Committee

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Secretary
September 29, 2016

Chair