**Report for the 2022 Elections
for the Governing Council, the Academic Board,
University of Toronto Mississauga and University of Toronto Scarborough
Campus Councils and their Standing Committees**

1.   Introduction

The purpose of the report is to provide factual information about the 2022 Governing Council elections and to indicate areas for discussion and revisions to the *Guidelines* for future elections.

2.   Revision of the *Election Guidelines 2021* for 2022

Minor revisions were made to the *Election Guidelines 2021* to create the *Election Guidelines 2022,* as noted in the table below. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) recommended that the use of electronic nomination forms be continued. The process included clarification of the responsibilities of nominees and nominators regarding signatures and the acceptance of terms and conditions of nomination process outlined in the *Guidelines*.

Section 1.1 was added to the *Election Guidelines* under definitions regarding "Principles of Good Governance and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" and related text.

Other editorial changes were made to use more precise and consistent language and terms throughout the *Guidelines.* Where necessary, text was revised to provide greater direction to the reader and to reduce the likelihood of misunderstanding.

SECTION:	**Minor Changes to *Election Guidelines 2021* for Approval to create *Election Guidelines 2022***
ALL RELEVANT SECTIONS	Minor editorial changes (i.e. updated web links to new Governing Council website, accessibility websites, updated current list of elected members in all estates, etc.).

Section 1.1	**Added Section/text** re *Principles of Good Governance and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:* *Subject to applicable laws, University governance must be guided by excellent principles of good governance in relation to stewardship and public accountability, and at the same time recognize the unique nature and characteristics of the academic community or institution, including:* • *the fundamental autonomy of universities, coupled with the essential responsibility for public accountability;* • *the need to respect the academic mission of excellence in teaching and research;* • *the importance of ensuring that academic freedom and responsibility are respected;* • *the need to be seen to be accountable – through transparency – to all parties interested in and supporting the University;* • *the desire for meaningful and objective stakeholder participation in governance; and,* • *the diversity and broad representation of governors.* *Further to the principles of good governance, it is critical that governance bodies reflect the diversity of the University community.* *Building a culture of belonging increases our capacity to effectively address and serve the interests of our global community. Therefore, the University of Toronto is working to correct inequities that were developed historically and are ongoing. We strongly encourage nominations from Indigenous Peoples, Black and racialized persons, women, persons with disabilities, and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. We value nominees who have demonstrated a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion and recognize that diverse perspectives, experiences, and expertise are essential to strengthening our academic mission. We are committed to fostering a community of belonging and creating inclusive conditions in which everyone can thrive.*
Sections 2.1, 7.4, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5	Updated to reflect the 2022 election schedules.

Section 6	Updated content to be compliant with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA).
Sections 7.6, 8.7, 9.7, 10.7 and 11.10	Updated relevant sections re use of electronic nomination forms and clarification of the responsibilities of nominees and nominators regarding signatures and the acceptance of terms and conditions of nomination process outlined in the *Guidelines*.

The Elections Committee approved the *Election Guidelines 2022* at its meeting on November 25, 2021. The revised *Guidelines* were effective January 1, 2022 and were publicly posted on the Office of the Governing Council's *Elections* webpage.

3.   Outreach to Promote Opportunities in Governance and Elections

As in previous years, many steps were taken to promote the elections for seats on Governing Council, the Academic Board, and the UTM and UTSC Campus Councils and their Standing Committees, all in the context of the pandemic.

Proactive approaches by the CRO and Deputy Returning Officers (DROs) on all three campuses to engage students, administrative staff, and teaching staff with regard to the election process included a series of educational forums (including use of governance orientation videos) and other outreach initiatives delivered by virtual means using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. These initiatives were undertaken prior to the nomination period for the 2022 elections and included focused communications and advertising, as well as election information sessions.

The 2022 Call for Nominations and Voting Period was publicized as follows:

- Virtual information sessions were held on Tuesday, November 25, 2021 for students; and on Wednesday, November 26, 2021 for teaching staff constituencies and for administrative staff; invites to all students, administrative staff and teaching staff were sent the week of November 17, 2021; these also promoted on the Governing Council website;

- Additional *one-on-one* virtual information sessions were offered to those eligible to seek election but who were unable to attend one of the scheduled virtual information sessions (e.g. Thursday, November 26 at 2:00 p.m.);

- Virtual information sessions for prospective nominees and candidates at UTM were held on Thursday, November 27, 2021;

- Virtual information sessions for prospective nominees and candidates at UTSC were held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. Session included a presentation and interactive Q&A discussion.

- In a memorandum to all registered students sent on December 15, 2021;

- In weekly Vice-Provost Students' e-newsletter "*9 New Things*" in January 2022 (nomination period) and February 2022 (voting period);

- In December 2021, targeted memoranda were sent to administrative staff, students, teaching staff, and librarians at UTM and UTSC to promote the election;

- In updated announcements on the Office of the Governing Council website, which included information on the UTM and UTSC Campus Council (and their bodies) elections;

- In a memorandum sent to post-graduate medical trainees in December 2021 and January 2022;

- In customized e-mail messages sent to divisional leaders at all three campuses asking for assistance in promoting participation in the 2022 elections;

- By the Chairs of the Academic Board and University Affairs Board, and Governing Council at meetings of the respective bodies in December and by the Chairs of the UTM and UTSC Campus Council, Campus Affairs and Academic Affairs Committees at their meetings in January and early February 2022;

- By contacting the offices of Deans whose divisions had upcoming vacancies on the Academic Board and the Academic Affairs Committees at UTM and UTSC for teaching staff seats;

- On the Governing Council Elections website (homepage): (https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections);

- Listing in the *Provost's Weekly Digest* (January 2022);

- Online advertisements in *The Varsity* in December 2021, January and February 2022;

- On the U of T events webpage (http://www.events.utoronto.ca), during the campaign period;

- In a mass email sent on January 10, 2022, to all students and post-graduate medical trainees eligible to participate in the elections. Targeted emails to members of the various estates were sent by UTM and UTSC;

- On the U of T student portal (*Accessible Campus Online Resource Network* - ACORN) between January 7 and 21, 2022 (re Nomination Period);

- In a follow-up email to students who had expressed interest in serving on the Council (i.e. attended earlier information sessions and/or sent emails requesting information about the election process); and

The methods listed above were also used to publicize the Voting Period in February 2022, including the listing of all candidate statements for Governing Council on the Elections website; additionally, the listing of all students, teaching staff and administrative staff candidate statements for UTSC and UTM Campus Council and Standing Committees seats were also published.

4.   Nominations

Governing Council

The nomination period for seats on the Governing Council, the Academic Board and the UTM and UTSC Campus Councils and their Standing Committees opened on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 12:00 noon and closed on Friday, January 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Electronic Nomination forms for each constituency were available from the Governing Council website.

Upon the close of the nomination period, it was determined that Governing Council elections were required for six (6) student seats (with one seat acclaimed in the Part-time Undergraduate Student Constituency), one administrative staff seat and 2 teaching staff seats in Constituency V (Medicine), with teaching staff seats acclaimed in Constituencies IC (FAS) and IV.

The successful candidate in the administrative staff election was Sarosh Jamal (re-elected for a send 3-year term); successful candidates in the teaching staff elections for Constituency V – Temerty Faculty of Medicine were Dr. Glen Bandiera and K. Sonu Gaind (re-elected); Professor Mark Lautens (Constituency IC – FAS) and Professor David Zingg (Constituency IV) were both acclaimed.

Academic Board

Sixteen (16) teaching staff seats (no librarian) seats on the Academic Board were open for election, most for a three-year term from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. Upon the close of the nomination period, fourteen (14) seats were acclaimed; and 2 seats in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine open for election. A list of acclaimed and elected candidates can be viewed on the Elections website: https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections

UTM and UTSC Campus Councils and their Standing Committees

This was the 10th year where elections were held for the UTM and UTSC Campus Council's and their Standing Committees.

The virtual information sessions held at UTM and UTSC generated interest among all the estates and constituencies. A number of the attendees put their names forward as candidates for seats on the Campus Council's and their Standing Committees.

Sections 11.5, 11.6, 11.7 and 11.24 of the *Election Guidelines 2021*, incorporated changes regarding UTM and UTSC undergraduate student seats, which were merged to include part-time

undergraduate seats. This change reflected the recommendations contained in the *Report of the 2020 Committee to Review the UTM and UTSC Campus Councils (CRCC 2020)*, approved by the Governing Council on June 25, 2020.

At UTM, there were 26 available seats in the various estates announced with the first call for nominations. Nominations were submitted for all seats, except for two graduate student seats (1 on the Campus Affairs Committee and 1 on the Academic Affairs Committee) and one undergraduate student seat on the Campus Affairs Committee. Following a second call for nominations, one graduate student candidate was acclaimed on the UTM Academic Affairs Committee and one graduate student seat remains vacant on the Campus Affairs Committee.

Elections at UTM were required in the undergraduate student constituency of the Campus Affairs Committee. and in the administrative staff and teaching staff constituencies of the Campus Affairs Committee.

At UTSC, nominations were received for all vacancies except 1 graduate student seat (on the Academic Affairs Committee) and 1 teaching staff seat (on the Campus Affairs Committee). Elections at UTSC were required in the undergraduate student and teaching staff constituencies of the Campus Council. Candidates were acclaimed in the undergraduate student constituency for the Campus Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee, for Teaching Staff and Librarian seats on Academic Affairs Committee and the Campus Affairs Committee. Candidates were also acclaimed in the graduate student constituency for the Campus Council, Campus Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee.

Table 1: Summary of Nominations for the Governing Council Elections 2022

Constituency	# of seats available	# of nominations received	# of times nominations were re-opened
Administrative Staff (term ending June 30, 2025)	1	7	0
Teaching Staff (term ending June 30, 2025) Constituency IC *includes all Teaching Staff members in the Faculty of Arts and Science who hold their major appointments in the Departments of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Cell and Systems Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, Statistical Sciences, the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics (excluding those who*	1	1	0

are members of Constituency II - University of Toronto Mississauga or III – University of Toronto Scarborough)) Constituency IV *includes all Teaching Staff members who hold their major appointments in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (FASE).*	1	1	0
Constituency V *includes all members in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine (including full-time and part-time clinical staff). Members elected from the Faculty of Medicine may not be from the same Department within the Faculty.*	2	4	0
Full-time Undergraduate Students (term ending June 30, 2023) Constituency I (Arts and Science, UTM, UTSC)	2	30	0
Constituency II (Professional Faculties)	2	10	0
Part-time Undergraduate Students (term ending June 30, 2023)	2	1	1*
Graduate Students (term ending June 30, 2023) Constituency I (Humanities & Social Sciences: Divisions I & II)	1	7	0
Constituency II (Physical & Life Sciences: Divisions III & IV)	1	7	0

* Call for Nominations to fill 2nd PTUG Seat To be Announced

5.   Election Process 2022

Information Meeting for Candidates

The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) held virtual information meetings for the student candidates of the Governing Council elections on January 25 and 26, 2022; and for administrative and teaching staff candidates on January 26, 2022. The Deputy Returning Officers (DROs) held concurrent information sessions at UTM and UTSC on January 27, 2022 for candidates participating in the elections for the Campus Councils and their Standing Committees.

The purpose of the virtual meetings was to provide candidates with information regarding their respective constituencies, the voting process, and the campaign rules as outlined in the *Election Guidelines 2022*. It was made clear that each candidate's signature on the electronic nomination form indicated their agreement to be bound by the rules of the *Guidelines*. Candidates were also asked to review their statements, which would be published online on the Elections website which was linked to an online ad in *The Varsity and* would accompany all election ballots. Candidates who were unable to attend the meeting met separately with the CRO and the DROs to review the campaign rules. At the virtual information meetings, the CRO and DROs advised all candidates that reminders from the Office of the Governing Council and the respective Campus Councils would be sent to all eligible voters encouraging them to exercise their franchise.

Student Voting

The campaign period for candidates, which overlapped with the voting period, was held from Monday, January 31, 2022 to Friday, February 18, 2022. All students, including post-graduate medical trainees, were able to vote online (from Monday, February 8 to Friday, February 18, 2022) through the online voting utility, *U-elecT* https://voting.utoronto.ca/election via the *Accessible Campus Online Resource Network* (ACORN). The size of each student constituency and the number of valid votes cast for the Governing Council elections over the past five years is shown in Table 3.

Administrative Staff and Teaching Staff Voting

Online voting for administrative and teaching staff Governing Council elections were held via online through *U-elecT* https://voting.utoronto.ca/election from Monday, February 7, 2022 to Friday, February 18, 2022.

Lists of eligible administrative and teaching staff voters were obtained via the Human Resources Information System (HRIS), together with electors' email addresses and UTORids. Voting instructions were also posted on the elections website and included in all email notices.

U-elect Voting Issue

U-elecT (voting.utoronto.ca) is a 24/7 on-line voting tool launched in February 2010 through a partnership between Student Life (St. George) and Information Technology Services (ITS), (Enterprise Applications and Solutions Integration/EASI, formerly Student Information Systems/SIS). The tool allows the Office of the Governing Council, student societies and other student organizations to conduct elections and referenda at the University of Toronto on all three campuses. Governing Council elections opened to student and staff constituencies on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. – the voting platform experienced minor incidents on the first day of election – voters began to report errors and difficulty voting to the Chief Returning Officer. ITS staff confirmed that *U-elecT* was under heavy load by users, and that corrective action was being undertaken. The CRO communicated directly with those eligible voters who had experienced technical issues and in all cases the voters were able to cast their respective ballots. While the voter process was interrupted due to load and application errors, the integrity of votes was maintained. Overall, voter activity in 2022 was comparable to previous years.

6. **Appeals and Campaign Violations**

There was no requirement for the Elections Committee of the Governing Council, in accordance with Section 7.8(b) of the *Election Guidelines 2022*, to meet as "Election Overseers" in 2022.

All candidates were sent an email during the campaign reminding them of the relevant sections of the *Election Guidelines 2022*, in particular Appendix A (*Guidelines for Campaigning and Enforcement of the Elections Guidelines 2022)*.

The number of allegations of campaign violations and appeals that have been made since 2017 are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Campaign Violation Allegations and Appeals, 2017-2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of allegations of campaign violations	0	1	0	0	1	0
Number of appeals of election process/results	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of appeals of technical invalidation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of allegations and appeals referred to Election Overseers	0	1	0	0	1	0
Number of *serious*/*severe* violations found	0	1	0	0	1	0

Table 3: Voting Results Governing Council, 2016 to 2022

STUDENT CONSTITUENCY	2016	2017	2108	2019	2020	2021	2022
Full-time Undergraduate Students							
Constituency I Constituency Size	47,422	48,329	49,503	50,454	51,874	53,424	52,509
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	4,348 (9.1%)	2,747 (5.7%)	2,714 (5.4%)	2,914 (5.8%)	1,428 (2.8%)	2,049 (3.8%)	3,097 (6%)
Constituency II Constituency Size	14,216	14,908	14,263	14,797	14,910	14,309	15,469
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	603 (4.2%)	691 (5%)	816 (5.7%)	405 (2.7%)	462 (3.1%)	1,184 (8.3%)	309 (2%)
Part-time Undergraduate Students							
Constituency Size	6,856	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	201 (.3%)	Both seats acclaimed	Both seats acclaimed	Both seats acclaimed	Both seats acclaimed	Both seats acclaimed	One seat acclaimed (one seat to be filled)
Graduate Students							
Constituency I Constituency Size	8,416	8,867	8,983	9,504	10,372	10,478	10,117

# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	476 (5.6%)	367 (4.1%)	478 (5.3%)	393 (4.1%)	538 (5.2%)	424 (4.0%)	308 (3%)
Constituency II Constituency Size	7,808	8,153	8,476	8,847	9,580	N/A	10,277
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	266 (3.4%)	920 (11.3%)	293 (3.4%)	548 (6.2%)	794 (8.3%)	Seat acclaimed	475 (4.6%)

Administrative Staff							
	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Constituency Size	7,440		8,561	8,706		9,067	9,829
# of Valid Votes Cast (% Voters)	628 (8.4%)	N/A*	739 (8.6%)	1,333 (15%)	N/A*	1,295 (14%)	1,062 (11%)

Note: No elections required for Administrative Staff seat in 2017 & 2020

Teaching Staff Statistics (introduced via *U-elecT* in 2019)

Constituency IC *includes all Teaching Staff members in the Faculty of Arts and Science who hold their major appointments in the Departments of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Cell and Systems Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, Statistical Sciences, the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics (excluding those who are members of Constituency II - University of Toronto Mississauga or III – University of Toronto Scarborough))*

Constituency Size: 443
# of valid Votes cast: N/A (N/A % Voters)
N/A – seat acclaimed

Constituency IV *includes all Teaching Staff members in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (FASE).*

Constituency Size: 356
# of valid Votes cast: N/A (N/A % Voters)
N/A – seat acclaimed

Constituency V *includes all members in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine (including full-time and part-time clinical staff). Members elected from the Faculty of Medicine may not be from the same Department within the Faculty.*

Constituency Size: 5,602
# of valid Votes cast: 348
(6% Voters)
2 seats elected

7. Preparations for 2023 Elections

As indicated in the data provided for the nominations and the voting results, participation in the elections across all estates and constituencies continued to remain a challenge. The Chief Returning Officer will continue to explore voting platform options in consultation with the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and Enterprise Applications and Solutions Integration (EASI) to replace the U-elecT voting platform.

Recommendations:

As part of an ongoing review, it is recommended that:

i. the use of electronic nomination forms be permanently adopted as part of the call for nominations process; and
ii. any further revisions of the *Election Guidelines 2022* to create the *Election Guidelines 2023* be discussed by the Elections Committee at its October 13th, 2022, meeting.

Anwar Kazimi
Chief Returning Officer

May 1, 2022