



Memorandum to: Members of the University Community
Governing Council
Academic Board
Business Board
University Affairs Board
College of Electors
Council of Presidents
Principals, Deans, Academic Directors and Chairs
Professional/Managerial and Confidential Staff
University of Toronto Alumni Association
Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students
Erindale College Student Union operating as University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union
Graduate Students' Union
Scarborough Campus Students' Union
Students' Administrative Council operating as University of Toronto Students' Union
University of Toronto Faculty Association
United Steelworkers of America

From: Stephen C. Smith, Chair of the Elections Committee

Date: July 16, 2008

Re: **Request for Ideas and Comments on the Governing Council Election Process**

The Elections Committee of the Governing Council is responsible for developing guidelines for procedures to be used in the election of teaching staff, administrative staff, and students to the Governing Council, and teaching/librarian staff to the Academic Board. Every year, the Committee invites ideas and input from the University community on the Governing Council election process. The Committee welcomes your comments on any element of the election process, but is particularly interested in your responses to the following questions:

- **Would you consider being a candidate in a Governing Council election? If not, why not?**
- **Have you voted in Governing Council elections? If not, why not?**
- **Do you have any suggestions as to how to increase the participation rate for Governing Council elections?**

[Please note that non-degree students and students registered in the Toronto School of Theology are ineligible to participate in Governing Council elections.]

The election of alumni governors follows a special process through the College of Electors, a group of members representing the constituent alumni associations of the University of Toronto Alumni Association. The College elects alumni governors and the Chancellor on behalf of all alumni. The Elections Committee also welcomes input on this process.

Please provide written submissions regarding the Governing Council and its election processes by **Friday, September 5, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments may be sent by email, regular mail or fax to:

Mae-Yu Tan,
Secretary of the Elections Committee
Office of the Governing Council, University of Toronto
27 King's College Circle, Room 106, Simcoe Hall
Fax: 416-978-8182
Email: maeyu.tan@utoronto.ca

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Comments may also be submitted online at: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections/comments/survey.htm>.
Suggestions will be considered in the preparation of the 2009 Election Guidelines.

Why is Governance Important?

The University of Toronto is a leader among the world's best public teaching and research universities. It excels in the discovery, preservation and sharing of knowledge through its teaching and research and its commitment to excellence and equity. In achieving this record of excellence, the University of Toronto is governed by the Governing Council, which consists of members of the public and alumni, faculty, administrative staff, and students. As trustees, governors make decisions about the University that have both immediate and long-term effects. Trustees are vested with the responsibility of ensuring that future generations inherit a university that continues to be a great centre of learning and scholarship.

All members of the University community are encouraged to become involved in the Governing Council or one of its Boards or Committees. This may be done by encouraging qualified individuals to stand as candidates in Governing Council elections, by standing for election yourself, by voting in elections in your constituency, or by applying for the co-opted (non-Governing Council) positions on the Boards and Committee of the Council.

More information is available on the websites below:

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections.htm>
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/bac/ec.htm>
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections/ce.htm>

Dates to Remember:

January 2009:	Nominations open for administrative staff, teaching staff, student, and alumni seats on the Governing Council and teaching/librarian staff seats on the Academic Board.
February - March 2009:	Elections.
March - April 2009:	Call for Nominations for Co-opted seats on the Governing Council Boards and Committees.