

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

REPORT NUMBER 24 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

September 21 and October 1, 2001

To the University Affairs Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on September 21 and October 1, 2001, in the Falconer Room, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor Brian Corman (In the Chair)
Ms Karen Lewis
Mr. Andrew Morgan
Mrs. Susan Scace

Regrets:
Ms Shirley Hoy
Mrs. Susan Scace (October 1)

Secretariat
Ms Cristina Oke

In Attendance:
Mr. Louis R. Charpentier, Secretary, Governing Council

In this report, all items are reported to the University Affairs Board for information.

1. Report of the Previous Meeting

Report Number 23, dated May 14, 2001 was approved.

2. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising.

3. Status Report on Governing Council By-Elections

At the invitation of the Chair, Ms , the Chief Returning Officer, reported that nominations for teaching staff positions on the Academic Board and the Governing Council had closed at noon on September 21st. Three of the seats on the Academic Board had been filled by acclamation: Professor Eugene Fiume, Arts and Science; Professor Eric Freeman, Faculty of Dentistry; and Professor Luc DeNil, Faculty of Medicine. A seat in

3. Status Report on Governing Council By-Elections (cont'd)

the Faculty of Medicine remained unfilled, and nominations would be reopened for that position.

Three nominations had been received for the teaching staff seat from Constituency III (Faculty of Medicine) and a mail ballot election would therefore be held. Ballots would be mailed out the week of October 1st. The deadline for return of the ballots would be October 26. The ballots would be counted and the winner declared on October 29.

4. Calendar of Business, 2001-02

The Chair explained that the main work of the Committee was to develop the Election Guidelines for 2002 and present them for approval to the University Affairs Board at its meeting on November 5. In addition, a report on the Election Process for 2001 was to be submitted to the University Affairs Board on November 5.

5. Referral Back from University Affairs Board

The Committee discussed the referral back from the University Affairs Board (UAB) of the recommendation regarding special students. Concerns that had been raised in the discussion at UAB included the perception that a large number of students had been disenfranchised and that membership in APUS should entitle students to vote and to run in the Governing Council elections.

It was noted that most special students attended the University of Toronto for only one year and therefore would not be part of the constituency of part-time undergraduate students for both the election period and the membership period. It was also noted that not all special students are part-time students.

There was agreement that the matter of special students would be addressed with the Report on the Elections Process and the Elections Guidelines 2002 at the November 5 meeting of the UAB.

6 Review of the Draft Outline of the Report on Elections Process 2001

Members noted their concern at the low participation rate of voting in all constituencies in the Governing Council elections in 2001.

Members discussed ways in which participation could be increased through improved communication, and made the following suggestions:

- highlight the link between the decisions of the Governing Council and the daily experience of faculty, staff and students at the University;
- include information on governance in orientation material such as *Getting There*;
- encourage the President to include a reference to governance in his orientation

remarks in September;

- distribute information about the Governing Council throughout the year, not just in

6 Review of the Draft Outline of the Report on Elections Process 2001 (cont'd)

the Call for Nominations and Election period;

- provide brief and concise description of role of Boards and Committees to encourage involvement in governance;
- work with Public Affairs to develop a higher profile of governance within the University. One approach might be to publish a brief article profiling members of the Governing Council and its Boards and Committees in the campus media, and perhaps on the University of Toronto home page;
- identify a variety of strategies to increase awareness of the Governing Council and the elections in various communities (residences, faculties, etc)
- identify opportunities for ongoing communication of the Governing Council, eg. key issues; what is happening in governance.

7. Review of the Student Voting Survey (2001)

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Charpentier described the Student Voting Survey (2001) which had been carried out by the Hitachi Survey Research Centre. Mr. Charpentier indicated that the survey results were being reviewed and would be incorporated into the report on the Election Process for 2001. He also noted that the data in the survey could inform the formulation of the Election Guidelines for 2002.

Mr. Charpentier explained that the survey had provided information on the impact of various types of advertising on voter awareness. Members of the Committee discussed possible ways of increasing visibility of the elections, including the use of listserves and electronic bulletin boards located in various Faculties and University services. These suggestions will be incorporated into the Report on the Election process.

Members considered the results of the Student Voting Survey (2001), and suggested that the following highlights be emphasized in the Report on the Election Process:

- web-voting was considered a success by the majority of respondents;
- very few students had difficulty accessing a computer to vote;
- information about the Governing Council and its work needs to be more widely disseminated to increase participation in elections.

It was agreed that the complete Student Voting Survey (2001) would be posted on the Governing Council web-site.

8. Election Guidelines 2002

The Committee discussed possible changes to the Election Guidelines, including a clearer definition of 'student'. There was agreement that the draft Guidelines for 2002 would be circulated for comment to the three student groups – Students' Administrative Council

(SAC), Graduate Students' Union (GSU) and the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS) – before being finalized.

8. Election Guidelines 2002 (cont'd)

The Chair noted that the main business of the October 17th meeting of the Committee would be a review of Draft Election Guidelines 2002, the framework under which the elections would be conducted. There was agreement that the Guidelines would incorporate the principles underlying participation in governance, and include a list of definitions.

A member suggested that stricter penalties for violations of the Election Guidelines during the election period be considered. The member also suggested reviewing the Regulations Regarding Posters and Guidelines for Campaigning to ensure that they reflect current conditions. The member undertook to send suggested changes to the Committee Secretary.

Secretary

Chair

October 14, 2001