

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**REPORT NUMBER 25 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**October 17, 2001**

To the University Affairs Board,  
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on October 17, 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

Secretariat  
Ms Cristina Oke

In Attendance:  
Mr. David Melville, Member of the Governing Council  
Ms Wendy Swinton, Member of the Governing Council  
Mr. Louis R. Charpentier, Secretary, Governing Council  
Mr. Elan Ohayon  
Ms Emily Sadowski, Acting President, Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students

In this report, item 3 is reported to the University Affairs Board for approval; all other items are reported for information.

**1. Report of the Previous Meeting**

Report Number 24 of the meetings of September 21 and October 1 was approved.

**2. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

There was no business arising.

### **3. Review of Election Guidelines 2002**

The Chair reminded members that the Elections Committee recommended approval of Election Guidelines annually to the University Affairs Board (UAB). He noted that the *Election Guidelines 2002* would be considered by the UAB at its meeting on Tuesday November 5, 2001, and that the preliminary draft plus any revisions agreed upon at this meeting would be distributed to the Agenda Planning Committee of UAB for its meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Chair informed members that a copy of the draft Guidelines had been distributed to the Students' Administrative Council (SAC), the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS) and the Graduate Students' Union (GSU), with a request for comments by October 26<sup>th</sup>. The *Election Guidelines 2002* would be finalized after a review of comments received from the student groups.

The Chair summarized the major revisions to the *Election Guidelines 2002*:

- A new section entitled "Interpretation" had been created and included all the definitions in the Guidelines;
- A new section entitled "Purpose" had been created which described the relationship between the *University of Toronto Act* and the Guidelines, and summarized the trusteeship responsibilities of a member of the Governing Council;
- A paragraph had been added to clarify the definition of 'Student' in the description of constituencies;
- a new requirement had been introduced making it mandatory for all student candidates or their official designate to attend an all-candidates' meeting and sign an agreement to abide by the rules outlined in the Guidelines;
- Web-based voting was being extended to the Graduate Student constituency;
- Vote penalties were being introduced for campaign violations.

A member of the Committee spoke in favour of penalties for campaign infractions. The member indicated that in previous years, major violations could result in disqualification but minor infractions could only be dealt with by moral suasion. The member expressed his hope that the imposition of penalties for infractions would be a deterrent for campaign violations in the future.

After discussion, it was decided that a demerit system would be recommended, with a five vote penalty being assigned to each demerit. Members agreed that the intent was to introduce sanctions that would serve as a deterrent.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the *Election Guidelines 2002* (attached hereto as Appendix A) be approved, subject to revisions arising from comments received by October 26, 2001.

### **4. Review of Final Report of the Elections Process 2001**

The Chair reminded members that they had received a copy of the Final Report of the Elections Process 2001. No changes were suggested. The Report would be sent to the University Affairs Board for information.

## **5. Special Students: Response to University Affairs Board**

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Charpentier summarized the matter with respect to special students and their eligibility to be candidates and to vote in Governing Council elections. He reiterated that students were defined by the *University of Toronto Act* as ‘any person registered at the University for full-time or part-time study in a program that leads to a degree or post-secondary diploma or certificate of the University or in a program designated by the Governing Council as a program of post-secondary study at the University’. He explained that students who were not registered in a program of study were designated as Non Degree or ‘special’ students, and totaled 1,689 in 2000-01. The non-degree students included the following:

- Pre-University students: 27 or 2% of the total
- Exchange Students: 88 or 5% of the total
- Transitional Year Program: 207 or 12% of the total
- Academic Bridging: 242 or 14% of the total
- Visiting students from other Universities: 261 or 15%
- Students with a previous degree but who were taking additional courses: 297 or 18%

Mr. Charpentier indicated that individuals in any of the groups described above were in attendance at the University for one year.

The remaining 567 non-degree students (34%) were pursuing a particular course or combination of courses for a self-defined outcome. Usually, these students would also be registered only for one year; however, because data was not collected on whether these individuals continued at the University, it would require a major effort to find out what proportion of these students continued beyond one year, if any.

Mr. Charpentier noted for the Committee that, of the groups described, three could potentially be designated by the Governing Council as following a program of post-secondary study. These were the Pre-University, Academic Bridging and Transitional Year Program. Should the Committee wish to consider this as an option, it should also take into account the criterion defined in the Guidelines, “the student must be registered during the period September to April in the constituency in which he or she was elected in order to hold his or her seat”. It was possible, for example, that an individual registered in the Academic Bridging program as a part-time student, if elected as a part-time student, could change status by September – either becoming a full-time student or perhaps not continuing. In either case, his/her seat would be declared vacant and a by-election would need to be conducted. The result would be that the seat would be vacant until late November.

The Chair invited Ms Emily Sadowski, Acting President of the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students (APUS) to address the Committee. Ms Sadowski requested that the Elections Committee resolve the issue of special students and their eligibility to participate in the governance of the University. She expressed the view of APUS that special students were considered by APUS to be members of the Association and were considered students by the provincial government. A message of exclusion was being sent to these students by not allowing them to participate in Governing Council elections.

Ms Sadowski indicated that APUS had not been informed of the previous meetings of the Elections Committee. The Chair responded that the date, location and time of the meetings had been posted on the web-site, and that it was his understanding that information about the previous meetings had been sent out to the Association.

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. David Melville, a member of the Governing Council, addressed the Committee. He described the issue as being one of full and fair representation for all students in the governance system of the University of Toronto. He requested that the

**5. Special Students: Response to University Affairs Board (cont'd)**

Elections Committee forward a recommendation to the University Affairs Board that Arts and Science part-time undergraduate non-degree ("special") students be made eligible to both vote and run in Governing Council elections, and that an open discussion and dialogue be immediately initiated with other student constituencies and their elected student governments on the inclusion of their special students in University governance.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their remarks. After discussion, he summarized the sense of the Committee that it did not wish to recommend a blanket inclusion of some or all non-degree students to be eligible for Governing Council Elections. He expressed the view of the Committee that the proposed *Guidelines* clearly defined eligibility in terms of the *Act*. However, he suggested that the Committee could invite members of the relevant student groups to identify programs that could be designated as a program of study under the *Act*, and to bring forward a proposal for the Committee's consideration. The Committee, in turn, would make its recommendation to the University Affairs Board. Members agreed with this approach and, further, requested that the Office of the Governing Council provide advice to the Committee on how to communicate with and encourage such input from members of the student community.

**6. Other Business**

There were no items of other business.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

Members agreed to a reserve meeting date of 4 pm on Wednesday October 31, 2001.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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Secretary

October 19 2001

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Chair