

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 79 OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

September 27, 2017

To the Executive Committee,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Falconer Room, Room 107C, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Professor Salvatore Spadafora, Chair
Mr. Aidan Fishman
Mr. Keith Thomas

Regrets

Mr. P.C. Choo
Mr. Jeff Collins

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 Rena Prashad, Governance Coordinator, UTSC*

**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 areas 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*

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Guidelines and the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, each contained elements which together 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, 2018 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 *2018 Guidelines* would be considered by the Committee at the next meeting. If required, recommendations for “major” amendments to the *Guidelines* would be forwarded by the Committee to the Executive Committee for approval.

As in past years, the 2018 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 2018* at its next meeting.

4. Preliminary Discussion - Election Guidelines 2018

Mr. Anwar Kazimi provided a preliminary report on the proposed revisions and update to the *2018 Guidelines*. Members expressed approval of the proposed changes, and discussed future possible refinements to the elections process.

5. Report of the Previous Meeting - Report Number 78 (May 23, 2017)

The Report of the Previous Meeting – Report Number 78, was approved.

6. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

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

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7. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The Chair confirmed that the date of the next meeting was Wednesday, November 15, 2017.

8. Other Business

There were no items of other business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Secretary
October 1, 2017

Chair