

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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**SESSION:**

Public   
Non-Public

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Decision   
Discussion/Direction   
Information

**TO:** Academic Council

**DATE:** June 27, 2023

**FROM:** Lauren Turner, University Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Academic Council 2023-2024: Results of Supplementary Nominations and Calls for Expressions of Interest

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**COMMITTEE MANDATE:**

- Section 1(b) of the GNC Terms of Reference provides that GNC is responsible for overseeing the process of recruitment, selection, and election of new members of Academic Council (AC) and its committees and recommending appointments for approval by AC in accordance with the university's Act and By-laws.
- We are reporting on the supplementary election process and results of the call for expressions of interest and seeking approval of the appointments of the successful teaching staff and student candidates.

**BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:**

- The 2023 Academic Council Election took place from February 13 – March 17 in accordance with the Election Timeline that was approved by the committee in January 2023.
- There were several vacant positions on Academic Council and its standing committees for which no nominations were received.
- At the Committee meeting in March 2023, GNC directed the University Secretariat to run an additional round of elections to begin after the end of the Winter 2023 term with a timeline that would allow successful candidates to be approved at the June 2023 meeting of Academic Council. Additionally, at the April 2023 meeting, GNC directed the University Secretariat to initiate the call for expressions of interest for Academic Council committee appointments to allow for approval prior to the 2023-2024 academic year.

**APPOINTMENT OF TEACHING STAFF FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES:**

- Of the nominations received by the nomination deadline, there were three (3) candidates nominated for the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (FSSH) teaching staff position, which exceeded the two (2) vacancies available.
- We verified the candidates' eligibility to participate in the election.

- As GNC had directed the Secretariat to fill as many vacant positions as possible, the Secretariat worked with the candidates to determine if any were amenable to standing for a Faculty-at-Large position. All candidates and their nominators agreed.
- Following discussions at GNC, it is recommended that Scott Aquanno and Shannon Vettor be appointed to the FSSH teaching staff positions, and Shanti Fernando be appointed to an open Faculty-at-Large position.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF NOMINEES TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES:**

- Of the nominations received by the nomination deadline, the number of candidates for each remaining role did not exceed the number of vacancies available.
- We have verified the candidates' eligibility to participate in the election.
- In accordance with section 7.9 of the Academic Council Procedures for the Election of Teaching, Non-Academic Staff and Student Representatives ("Election Procedures"), "When the Nomination Period has closed, if the number of candidates nominated is equal or less than the Academic Council positions available in a particular constituency, the candidates shall be acclaimed."

#### **Student Governor Candidate:**

- We received only one nomination for the remaining undergraduate student position on Academic Council.
- The student candidate has also been elected as President of the Student Union (OTSU).
- In verifying the candidate's eligibility, we noted that she has graduated as of June 2023.
- We confirm that there is a past practice of permitting the sitting OTSU President to participate in a student position of Academic Council while not being a registered student.
- This exception has been granted on the basis that the rationale for the requirement of a student to be eligible to serve is to ensure the individual has an active and ongoing connection to the student body. The role of OTSU President fulfills this requirement.

#### **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE:**

- Current and nominated Academic Council members were sent the call for expressions of interest in serving on the Graduate Studies Committee.
  - There were two eligible expressions of interest received by the deadline for the one (1) open elected teaching staff member position.
  - We have verified the candidates' eligibility for the selected roles.
  - Following discussion at GNC, JoAnne Arcand is recommended as the Academic Council representative on the Graduate Studies Committee.

#### **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISON:**

- Current and nominated Academic Council members were sent the call for expressions of interest in the following additional positions:
  - Board of Governors Liaison (1) open to all Academic Council members; normally the term is two years
  - Governance and Nominations Committee: three (3) elected teaching staff members of Academic Council one each from Faculty of Education, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
  - Honorary Degrees Committee (1) elected teaching staff member
  - Steering Committee (4) elected members of Academic Council
  - Undergraduate Studies Committee (1) elected teaching staff member of Academic Council
- Of the expressions received by the deadline, the number of candidates for each role did not exceed the number of vacancies available.

- We have verified the candidates' eligibility for the selected roles.

### **REMAINING VACANCIES:**

- At the close of nominations and expressions of interest, the following vacancies remain:
  - Faculty-at-Large positions on Academic Council (2)
  - Governance and Nominations Committee: two (2) elected teaching staff members of Academic Council one each from Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science and Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
  - Honorary Degrees Committee (1) elected teaching staff member
  - Steering Committee (3) elected members of Academic Council
- These vacancies do not pose a risk to quorum for these bodies.

### **CHAIR OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE:**

- To ensure continuity of the Committee, it is recommended that Brent MacRae be appointed Chair as of July 1, 2023. Since May 2022, Brent MacRae has assumed the role of Chair on an emergency basis as needed and has served as interim Chair since May 1, 2023, after the departure of Helene-Marie Goulding. He is currently serving his second term on the Committee, has been instrumental in ensuring continuity when the Chair was away, and has a significantly positive track record of engagement and active participation on the Committee.

### **MOTION:**

*Pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the following appointments:*

*Teaching Staff Position on Academic Council for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026:*

- *Faculty of Education: Wendy Barber*
- *Faculty of Health Sciences: JoAnne Arcand*
- *Faculty of Science: Denina Simmons*
- *Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Scott Aquanno & Shannon Vettor*
- *Faculty-at-Large: Mikael Eklund & Shanti Fernando*

*Student Position on Academic Council for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024:*

- *Samantha Brown (undergraduate)*

*Teaching Staff Position on the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026:*

- *Josh Lowe*

*Teaching Staff Position on the Governance and Nominations Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026:*

- *Wendy Barber*

*Student Position on the Honorary Degrees Committee for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024:*

- *Breanne McAlpin*

*Position on the Academic Council Steering Committee for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024:*

- *Oghenetega (Tega) Ubor*

*Academic Council member on the Graduate Studies Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026:*

- *JoAnne Arcand*

*Academic Council member on the Undergraduate Studies Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026:*

- *Wendy Barber*

*Board of Governors Liaison for the term of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024; renewable for one additional year subject to renewal on Academic Council:*

- *Oghenetega (Tega) Ubor*

*Chair of the Academic Appeals Committee for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025:*

- *Brent MacRae*

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. The University Secretariat will notify the candidates of the outcome of Academic Council's decision.

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**SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- Certificate of the Chief Electoral Officer – Academic Council Election 2023



June 20, 2023

## **Certificate of the Chief Electoral Officer – Academic Council Elections 2023**

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As the Chief Electoral Officer for the Academic Council elections for the university, it is my responsibility to oversee the conduct of elections within the established policies and procedures, in order to ensure the integrity and fairness of the election process.

My review of the elections for teaching staff and student representatives on Academic Council takes into account the conduct of the election process, as well as any complaints received regarding conduct of candidates during the elections. During this election process, there were no complaints received regarding the conduct of the elections.

It is my opinion that the election process was conducted fairly and in accordance with the *Academic Council Procedures for the Election of Teaching, Non-Academic Staff and Student Representatives*.

Based on the election results, I hereby certify to Academic Council that the following teaching staff members were eligible to run as candidates, were the sole nominees for the specified positions, and were properly acclaimed to the Academic Council for the term of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026:

- **Faculty of Education: Wendy Barber**
- **Faculty of Health Sciences: JoAnne Arcand**
- **Faculty of Science: Denina Simmons**
- **Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Scott Aquanno & Shannon Vettor**
- **Faculty-at-Large: Mikael Eklund & Shanti Fernando**
- **Teaching Staff Position on Academic Appeals Committee: Josh Lowe**

Based on the election results, I hereby certify to Academic Council that the following student was eligible to run as a candidate, was the sole nominee for the specified position, and was properly acclaimed for the term of September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024:

- **Undergraduate Student Position on Academic Council: Samantha Brown (undergraduate)**

Lauren Turner  
Chief Electoral Officer  
University Secretary