

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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**SESSION:**

Public   
Non-Public

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Decision   
Discussion/Direction   
Information

**TO:** Academic Council

**DATE:** January 23, 2024

**FROM:** Lauren Turner, University Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Elections 2024 – Timelines and Process

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**COMMITTEE MANDATE:**

At its meeting of January 16, 2024, GNC considered and approved the timelines and processes for the 2024 elections in accordance with its mandate as follows:

GNC is responsible for providing advice to Academic Council on its governance structure and processes, the nomination and election of new members, and Academic Council performance.

**KEY DATES APPROVED BY GNC:**Key Dates for 2024 Elections

- February 12, 2024: Nominations Open
- March 8, 2024: Nominations Close
- March 11-13, 2024: Review Nomination Eligibility
- March 15, 2024: Mandatory Student Candidate Information Meetings (if required)
- March 18-27, 2024: Campaign Period (if required)
- March 27-29, 2024: Online voting (if required)
- April 16, 2024: Results presented to GNC for recommendation to Academic Council
- April 23, 2024: Academic Council approval of GNC recommendation
- May/June: Calls for expressions of interest for AC Committees
- June 18, 2024: Results of expressions of interest presented to GNC for recommendation to Academic Council
- June 25, 2024: Committee appointments approved by Academic Council

## **GOVERNANCE RATIONALE:**

- The elections process in 2023 was lengthy and repetitive (described below).
- Following the 2023 elections, the University Secretary committed to reviewing the election and expressions of interest process to provide recommendations to GNC on changes for 2024 that will improve both results and efficacy to enhance governance and make best use of scarce resources.
- Having considered the 2023 experience as well as input from GNC, it is recommended that the 2024 election have extended time periods to increase opportunities for interested candidates to come forward.

## **BACKGROUND – 2023 ELECTIONS**

- The first round of the 2023 Academic Council Elections took place from February 13 – March 17 in accordance with the Election Timeline that was approved by GNC in January 2023.
- At the close of the first round, 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 semester 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.
- At the close of the second round of nominations and the expressions of interest, a number of vacant positions remained. This required an additional round of nominations and a second call for expressions of interest during the summer months.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: Vacancies to be filled via the 2024 election process

## Appendix A – Vacancies for 2024 Elections Process

### Academic Council

#### Elected Faculty:

- Faculty of Business and Information Technology – 2
- Faculty of Health Sciences – 1
- Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities – 1
- Faculty At-Large – 3

1 Elected Staff Member

Between 0 and 2 Elected Students<sup>1</sup>

### AC Steering Committee

- 5 or 6 (depending on student member renewal) drawn from members elected to Academic Council

### Academic Appeals Committee

- 2 or 3 student members
- 2 teaching staff members

### GNC

- 1 Dean
- 1 student from Academic Council
- 3 elected AC members
  - One each from FBIT, FSSH and FEAS

### Honorary Degrees Committee

- 0-1 student from Academic Council (depending on student member renewal)
- 1 elected Faculty member from Academic Council

### Undergraduate Studies Committee

- 1 Faculty member elected to AC
- 0-2 student members (depending on renewal status)

### Graduate Studies Committee

- 1 Faculty member elected to AC with a graduate faculty appointment
- 1 student member (depending on renewal)

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with clause 2.5 of By-Law 2, students elected to Academic Council may be renewed for an additional year of service. The number of student positions open for elections will depend on eligibility and interest in renewal from sitting student members.