



BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

THE BASICS

Do Board members get paid?

No, but there are many benefits. Board members are invited to numerous TMU and Board events and have opportunities to meet many interesting people. By being on the Board you increase your knowledge of Toronto Metropolitan University and the Ontario University system.

What is the difference between the Board of Governors and the Senate?

The difference in the simplest terms is that the Board of Governors is responsible for the financial well-being of the University and the Senate is responsible for the academic well-being of the University.

How do I learn more about the Board of Governors or running as a candidate

Contact the Board Secretariat (boardsecretariat@torontomu.ca) or visit the Board Election website (www.torontomu.ca/governors/elections/). You may also attend a Board meeting – they are open to the public and the schedule is posted on the website (www.torontomu.ca/governors/meetings/).

What are the duties of a Board member?

Board members are responsible for attending Board meetings and assigned Committee meetings. Members are also responsible for reading Board materials to be prepared to discuss and debate the issues with other Board members at the meetings.

What time commitment is required of a Board member?

Board meetings are held in September, November, January, March, April, and June. There are also Committee meetings, Governance Essentials seminars, and full-day Board Retreats. Board schedule for the year is set in September and posted to www.torontomu.ca/governors/meetings/.

When does the term begin for a Board member?

Board members start their term in office on September 1.

How long is the term in office?

- Students – one year
- Faculty – two years
- Staff – two years
- Alumni – three years

What kind of people do Board members meet?

Board members meet a wide variety of individuals with skills and expertise in many areas such as finance, law, human resources, public administration, and academia. External members of the Board are specifically appointed for their expertise in the areas relevant to the Board and the University.

What happens if a Board member misses a meeting?

Board members are very busy and may find that they have to be absent from one or two meetings. However members may be asked to step down if they attend at less than 50% of the regular meetings.

When and where are the Board meetings held?

Board meetings are held in September, November, January, March, April, and June. Meetings are usually scheduled towards the end of the month and are held at Jorgenson hall, 14th floor. Committee meetings are held throughout the year.

Is Canadian citizenship or permanent residency status required to be a Board member?

No, Canadian citizenship or permanent residency is not a requirement to serve as a Board member.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Who or what are nominees and nominators?

A nominee is the potential candidate who wants to run in the election to be elected as a member of the Board of Governors. A nominator is a person who wishes to support the nominee's nomination. Each nominee requires two nominators. Nominee and nominators must be from the same constituency.

! For student elections, nominee and nominators must all be students registered in a program or course of study at TMU, but they are not required to be in the same program or course of study.

Where do I get a nomination form?

You can download your nomination form at www.torontomu.ca/governors/elections/.

Can I get an extension to the nomination period if I am late or sick?

No, the nomination deadline is non-negotiable. Late nominations will not be accepted.

My nomination form has a mistake or is missing some information. Can I still submit it?

No, nomination forms with any errors or omissions will not be accepted. It is very strongly recommended that nomination forms are submitted in person, well in advance of the deadline, so that you may have time to correct any errors or omissions that you may discover at the submission desk.

! Nomination forms must have original, ink signatures.

Can I withdraw my nomination form?

Nominees may withdraw their nomination form by writing to the Returning Officer c/o Board Secretariat (boardsecretariat@torontomu.ca) before the end of the nomination period.

When do I need to hand in my Platform Statement and Photo?

Submit your platform statement and photo as soon as possible for posting on the Board Election website. This is especially important for faculty and staff candidates who wish to have their information included in the paper ballot packages. Email the statements and photos to boardsecretariat@torontomu.ca.

Am I required to use my legal name to run as a candidate?

Your nomination form and all campaign materials must have your legal name. You may add a nickname in brackets, subject to prior approval by the Returning Officer at his/her own sole discretion.

What if my constituency status changes?

Board members must maintain the eligibility status of the constituency from which they are elected throughout their term in office as a Board member. If you expect your constituency status to change after the nomination period closes, you should not run in the election.

! *Toronto Metropolitan University Act, 1977* states “that a student member who graduates during his or her term of office may serve for the remainder of such term”. [emphasis added]

Can I run if I am suspended or on academic probation?

Yes, but you might want to consider the time commitment. Your service to the Board may interfere with your academic commitment.

How many candidates can a person nominate?

A person can only nominate as many candidates as there are positions available. (For example – three student vacancies means that a nominator can sign the nomination form of up to three candidates only.)

Can I speak to a Board member about his/her experience before I decide to run?

Yes. Please email the Board Secretariat at boardsecretariat@torontomu.ca to arrange this.

THE CAMPAIGN PROCESS

Can I use the Toronto Metropolitan University Logo?

Please do not use the Toronto Metropolitan University logo on your posters or campaign material. The logo is the property of the University and cannot be used by any person without express consent from the University. The University generally does not permit the use of the logo by election candidates.

When can I officially begin campaigning?

You may officially begin campaigning after you receive confirmation of your status as a candidate. You will receive an email from the Returning Officer after the close of the nomination period.

When does the campaign period end?

The Election Procedures Committee has decided to allow campaigning throughout the election period, including the four voting days.

Can I campaign as a slate?

Candidates may campaign together as a slate but the Board Secretariat will only recognize candidates on an individual basis.

Do campaign posters need official approval prior to posting around the campus?

Campaign materials do not need official approval. However, please ensure that materials are created abiding by all relevant rules and procedures.

Do my posters need an official stamp?

No, but we appreciate receiving electronic copies of the materials before they are distributed. Please email a copy of your poster to boardsecretariat@torontomu.ca to keep on file.

Where can I display campaign posters?

Election related materials may be posted around the campus in a safe and reputable manner. Materials are prohibited from being posted on any door, on any glass surface, or inside any washroom or in any manner that may alter, damage, or deface University property. Facilities Management and Development will be reminded of the Election period with a request that properly displayed election materials are not removed during this period.

Can I email or voice mail a voting reminder to my friends and colleagues?

Candidates may personally email or voice mail any person they know to remind them to vote. Candidates should not use any official TMU University listservs or phone lines for these activities.

Can I campaign in classrooms?

You may campaign in classrooms if the responsible instructor gives his/her permission.

! If you are a teaching assistant, you are prohibited from campaigning in any classroom.

Can I campaign at Toronto Metropolitan University events?

No, campaigning is prohibited at official University events. These include Convocation and any other event that the University or one of its departments acts as the host or the organizer.

What activities are prohibited around voters and voting areas?

Campaigning is prohibited in the library or in or near any computer lab during voting days.

Providing individuals access to a device for the purposes of voting is prohibited.

What do I do if someone else is engaging in prohibited activities?

Contact the Returning Officer c/o the Board Secretariat (boardsecretariat@torontomu.ca) with the details of the contravention. A Report of any contravention must be supported with sufficient detail and evidence. Making unfounded or frivolous complaints is also prohibited and may be penalized.

Only election officials may enforce the rules and procedures related to the election. No other individual is permitted to attempt to enforce these rules or procedures under any circumstances.

Can I use the student newspapers to campaign?

Yes, at your own expense.

Is there a cap on the amount of campaign funds that a candidate can spend?

No. But note that successful campaigns do not necessarily spend a great amount of money.

Can I ask for an endorsement?

Official Toronto Metropolitan University organizations, such as TMAPS, TMFA and TMSU, must include mention of all candidates of the same constituency in any election related announcements. (e.g. Toronto Metropolitan Faculty Association may mention on its website the upcoming election and all the TMFA candidates running).

What is the most effective campaign method?

Generally, face and name recognition are important. Candidates may build recognition by speaking with colleagues and making themselves known and visible to their voters.

What am I allowed to do in my campaign?

You are allowed to use print media such as posters and newspapers as well as electronic media, such as Facebook, twitter and other social networks, personal emails and websites.

If you are a student candidate you may campaign in a lecture or classroom setting if you are granted permission of the teaching faculty first.

THE VOTING PROCESS

Who is eligible to vote for what position?

- Only alumni voters vote for alumni member election
- Only faculty voters vote for faculty member election
- Only staff voters vote for staff member election
- Only student voters vote for student member election

Appropriate ballot will appear on the voting website for each voter who logs in to the voting system.

How do I vote?

Alumni Voters:

You can access the voting website through the personalized link you received in your email. If you did not receive a link, please contact the Returning Officer c/o the Board Secretariat (boardsecretariat@torontomu.ca).

Faculty, Staff, and Student Voters:

Voting website link is available on my.torontomu.ca. You will need your TMU user ID and password to log in to the portal.

Where do I vote?

You can vote anywhere you have access to the Internet to visit the voting website. Be conscious of the space and do not leave your computer unattended while logged in to the voting system.

How do I get a user name and password in order to be able to vote?

If you do not have a user name and password for logging into the portal or for using e-mail at TMU, you can obtain them at www.torontomu.ca/accounts/ by filling in the online forms. Please note that this process may take some time and you may wish to obtain these in advance of the voting period.

If you need further assistance, contact the CCS help desk. CCS contact and hours are available at www.torontomu.ca/ccs/contact-it-help/.

I received a paper ballot. Where do I send the paper ballot?

Preaddressed envelopes are provided in the ballots package. Send the ballot by mail leaving enough time to be received by the Returning Officer before the end of the voting period, or deliver by hand before the end of the voting period.

Can I provide laptops or set up voting booths for the voters?

No, actively soliciting votes by providing voters with a laptop or areas to vote is strictly prohibited.

FURTHER QUESTIONS

Can I plan an activity if there is no rule about it in the Election Policies and Procedures?

Don't take chances.

Inquire with the Returning Officer c/o the Board Secretariat (boardsecretariat@torontomu.ca) prior to engaging in any activity that you are unsure about.

Activities will not be excused for having been conducted without knowing that they may be sanction-able, and candidates may be disqualified for any offending activity. These include activities that are expressly prohibited and also those not expressly prohibited but may be against the general standard of fairness.

I still have questions, who can I contact for answers?

Questions should be sent by email to the Returning Officer c/o the Board Secretariat (boardsecretariat@torontomu.ca). Responses will be sent to all candidates.

! Questions will not be answered by phone or in person.