

UAGM/Nomination & Elections Annual Committee Report

Committee Members:

Jennifer D’Addario (Chair), Katharine Gainor, Darrin Sciberras, Alex Melatti-Zanette, Sally Tellis, Steve Watson, Michael D’Addario, Marie Foley, James Mackasey, Davide Trabona, Dave Szollosy (Executive Liaison), Sabina Barbagallo (Executive Assistant)

Terms of Reference:

1. To organize and administer the Unit Annual General Meeting and the Nomination and Elections in accordance with the unit bylaws.
2. To organize and administer the election of the Executive members.

Overview of Meetings:

Review of Past Practice

The committee met several times throughout the year to discuss the policies and procedures regarding the UAGMNE. As was passed at last year’s UAGM, the committee amalgamated the Unit Annual General Meeting with the Nominations Elections committee into one committee. This served our committee well this year as the increase in committee members offered a variety of perspectives and experience. The UAGM and N/E committee last year underwent a review process by a third party and recommendations were provided, through TSU Executive to the committee, about how to improve aspects of the committee’s work throughout the year. The UAGMNE committee considered the recommendations and collaborated throughout the year to create updated guidelines, nomination forms, and procedures.

Review of TSU’s Communication Provider

The committee recommended the continued use of telephone and Internet voting for this year’s election using the communication provider Union Strategies Inc. Voting suggestions, timeline updates, and membership lists were frequently communicated to USI to ensure that members received all communication. The committee ensured that all timelines were met and that all members received pertinent correspondence regarding the UAGM through email, TSU Newsletter, and that all information is posted on the TSU website. The Chair and the Executive Liaison will be trained on the USI system.

UAGMNE Updates

Meetings were held to discuss and review budget requirements, policies, and procedures for the UAGMNE. The committee researched and compiled a potential list of nearby facilities to accommodate an increase in membership attendance during the UAGM and decided to hold

this year's UAGM at 18 Wynford, 4th floor conference room. Due to COVID-19, the committee made the necessary decision to hold the UAGM meeting virtually. All forms and guidelines were reviewed and updated through extensive collaboration as a committee which include, but not limited to, the policies and procedures for the UAGMNE, the agenda for the UAGM, the voter letter, the accuracy of membership lists (TSU permanent and OT and Over 21), candidate bio's, preparing the special edition of the TSU Newsletter, web ballot screen shots, audio recording for the Elections, and all accommodations as a result of new social distancing protocols.

Communication

The UAGMNE committee ensured that all timelines were met and communicated such timelines to the membership. In addition, the committee coordinated the submissions of Committee Reports, Resolutions, Treasurer Reports, UAGM Draft Minutes (previous year), OECTA financial report, and the Elections Newsletter for the UAGM.

The committee requested and compiled a list of volunteers for the UAGMNE as well as the presence of an OECTA Representative and a Speaker for the UAGM. For the election, the committee requested an OECTA observer. To incentivize the membership, the committee prepared and arranged for a random draw of prizes for the UAGMNE for the members in attendance for participation in the Election. The committee ensures to report Election results as soon as they are available. Frequent communication to the membership by the UAGMNE committee was done to ensure that any amendments, especially under social distancing protocols, were communicated in a timely manner.

Accommodating COVID-19 Protocols

This year was particularly informative for the UAGMNE committee. Frequent communication was sent to the membership to describe changes resulting from social distancing protocols. The UAGMNE accommodated for members who experienced technological difficulties, considered social media implications for campaigning purposes, delayed the UAGMNE by a week, respectively, to allow for a directive from OECTA. Upon confirming the rescheduled date of the UAGMNE, the committee reviewed Robert's Rules and resolved the UAGMNE outcome with novel legislation surrounding video conferencing protocols.

Recommendations:

The committee has continued to dialogue and welcomes recommendations, which would benefit the membership. Recommendations from our committee include member engagement during the Election process, increasing member attendance during the UAGM, encouraging members to join more committees, and to continually review policies and procedures for the UAGMNE.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer D'Addario
Chair of UAGMNE