



UTGSU Civics Committee Meeting Highlights

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 9th, 2014

Location: GSU Building (16 Bancroft Ave.), Executive Office

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Chair: Susanne Waldorf, Civics and Environment Commissioner

Vice-Chair: None

If you would like to join the Civics Committee, please email Susanne at civics@utgsu.ca.

Present: Susanne, Phil, Alex, Deborah, Mehreen

Regrets: Sally, Esther

1. In collaboration with the UTGSU International Students' Caucus, we are organizing an **International Students' and Permanent Residents' Mock Vote**. This will be sent out to International Students and Permanent Residents (grad and undergrad) online to participate in a poll regarding whom they would vote in as Toronto mayor. The poll will also ask these students what issues are most important to them in these elections. Voting will also take place during the first hour of our "Get-out-the-Vote" party on Oct. 16th (see #2). The results will be announced during the party on Oct. 16th and be published online. With this initiative we are hoping that those who are allowed to vote in Toronto will take into consideration, when they go to the polls on Oct. 27th, the votes of permanent residents and international students, who aren't allowed to vote (even though the decisions impact them).
2. **Get-out-the-Vote party on October 16th from 5-8pm at Harvest Noon Café (2nd floor of the UTGSU building)**. We will have free pizza and drinks, possibly an opportunity to watch the CBC mayoral debate, and we will announce the results of the International Student and Permanent Resident Mock Vote. **Everyone is invited to this event!** We will publicize it in the digest soon and put posters up around campus. If you would like extra materials to put up in your department, please contact me.
3. **Elections "cheat sheet"**. We are creating a one-page reference sheet for those who are eligible to vote, but don't have time to research into the mayoral candidates. This will be available online and in hard copies at events prior to the Oct. 27th municipal elections as well as in the UTGSU office.

Additionally, since Natasha Jamal was the Vice Chair of Civics Committee and she has had to leave the UTGSU to pursue a degree at a different academic institution, we needed to elect or appoint a new Vice Chair from within the committee. Philip Baiden was appointed to this position during our Sept. 9th meeting. Thank you Philip!

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, Oct. 7th from 11:30am – 1:30pm** in the Koffler House (Multi-faith Centre) 3rd floor meeting room.