



Civics Committee Legislative Program, 2015-2016

Chair: Nickie Van Lier, Civics & Environment Commissioner
Vice-Chair: Philip Baiden, Academics & Funding Commissioner, Div 1 & 2
Members: Niko, Nico

The Civics Committee coordinates efforts to deal with issues of civic engagement in all its forms. The Committee engages in campaigns to increase member and community involvement in democratic governance on campus and within our broader society.

The Civics Committee has identified two key issues for the year, and will carry out this work through the initiatives set out below.

Federal Elections:

In early October, the Civics Committee and the University of Toronto Faculty Association co-hosted "We Vote UofT," a federal elections panel with GTA candidates. The event was moderated by Simona Chiose, *The Globe and Mail* post-secondary education reporter, and panelists discuss party platforms on key elections issues, including: youth unemployment and economic development; energy and environment policy (including climate change); investment in urban infrastructure (including public transit), and federal research policy and support (including the tri-Council funding agencies).

GSU Officer Elections:

In an effort to increase voter turnout during GSU Officer elections in February-March, the Civics committee is exploring a number of initiatives, including: portfolio-based information sessions with current Executives before the nomination period for members interested in running; a social event for members to discuss democracy on campus and to liaise with candidates; hiring and organizing elections promoters to engage voters during the elections.

In addition to the above efforts, the Civics Committee is interested this year in exploring the possibility of partnerships with different campus and community groups, particularly those involved with welcoming and engaging newcomers (including new immigrants and international students) to Toronto.