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FAQs for May 8, 2025 General Meeting

This FAQ covers Process and Participation, Technology, and Safety and Accessibility. Please click on the links to move ahead to the relevant section.

Governance Process and Participation

Q. Why is this meeting on the University Pension Plan (UPP) Divestment happening?

A. This General Meeting was called because fifty regular UTFA members in good standing requested it of the UTFA President by petition, which is their right under Article 10.2.i.v of the UTFA Constitution. To date, no position has been taken by UTFA, its Executive, or its Council. A main purpose of the petitioners' motion is to direct UTFA to take a position on this issue.

Q. Why is voting limited to only those attending the meeting? Why is voting open for only a short period of time?

A. The UTFA Constitution does not authorize the holding of a binding vote on a motion among the membership outside a meeting. The time allocated to the vote on the **motion** at the meeting was set by the petitioners, who created the motion and Agenda, as our Constitution allows.

Q. I have concerns about the meeting taking place/the scheduling of the meeting in May/ the motion itself/the voting time period. What can I do?

A. This is an all-members' meeting, and in keeping with our Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order, members hold decision-making power at it. You should make your concerns known. ***Members are empowered to approve the motion as is, amend the motion, defeat it, refer it to a committee, or postpone it indefinitely.*** Some votes require a simple majority to pass, while others require a two-thirds majority. (See the Quick Reference Guide chart below.) Votes that require two-thirds majorities to pass include amending the agenda (because it has been preset, according to the Constitution), limiting debate, extending the meeting, or adjourning the meeting early. Approving, defeating, amending, or

indefinitely postponing the motion requires a simple majority. All motions must be seconded.

Quick Reference Guide				
	Open for Discussion	**Can be amended**	**Vote count required to pass**	**May be reconsidered or rescinded**
Main Motion	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Amend Motion	Yes		Majority	Yes
Defeat a motion			Majority	Yes
Limit Debate		Yes	2/3rds	Yes
Close Discussion or Call the question			2/3rds	Yes
Refer to a committee	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Postpone to a later time	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Postpone indefinitely	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Adjourn			2/3rds	

Q. What rules govern the meeting?

A. Article 10.8 provides that Robert's Rules of Order will govern the conduct of our Association meetings (provided the Rules are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the Bylaws). Please also see the Quick Reference Guide above.

Q. How will the voting take place at the meeting for members who attend in person or online?

A. Whether you attend the meeting in person or online, your voting will take place electronically via Zoom poll at the meeting.

Q. Will my vote be anonymous?

A. Yes, your vote will be anonymous. We will screen share the result of the vote at the meeting.

Q. If I come late to the meeting can I still vote?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the position of the UTFA Executive or Council on the motion?

A. To date, no position has been taken by UTFA, its Executive, or its Council. A main purpose of the petitioners' motion is to direct UTFA to take a position on this issue.

Q. When can I and others speak at the meeting?

A. Most motions will be open for debate, and you can put yourself on the speakers' list. Certain pressing issues can be raised at any time. ***Examples are points of order, points of information, or points of privilege.*** You can raise a point of order if the rules are not being followed. You can raise a point of information to ask a specific question to obtain information. You can raise a point of privilege if your participation in the meeting is being hindered or if you need to raise an equity concern related to your participation.

Q. How do members get added to the list to speak?

A. If you are attending in person, two microphones will be available where members will be asked to line up: they will be located at the front of the Auditorium, one line 'for the motion' and one 'against the motion.' A staff member will ensure that an additional microphone will be available to accommodate any accessibility requirements.

If you are attending online, you will be able to use the 'raise hand' function on Zoom and enter the queue to speak. You will be asked if you would like to speak 'for the motion' or 'against the motion' under consideration at that time. All members who wish to speak will have the opportunity to do so, time permitting, given that the vote is a timed item on the agenda. The Speaker will alternate between speakers who are 'for' and 'against' the current motion.

Technology

Q. I'm attending the General Meeting online. What do I need to know?

A. After you complete your online registration, you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link for the meeting. That email will be sent by faculty@utfa.org. Please check your "Other" folder in your UofT Outlook email account if you did not receive a confirmation email. Please ensure that you log in to Zoom with the same email address used to register, as the link will not work for a different email address. The link gives you access to the meeting, allows you to participate in the Zoom Poll (to cast your votes), and to be added to the speakers' list (for members attending virtually).

Q. Do I need to download the Zoom app to participate in the meeting?

A. Yes. To participate in the General Meeting – even if you are going to the meeting in person – you must have the Zoom app installed on your smartphone, tablet, or computer to participate fully. You will not be able to join the meeting from a smartphone browser or tablet browser.

The Zoom app is free to download and use. For Apple devices, please download from the App Store. For Android devices, please download it from Google Play.

For more details on technology, please click here to see our 'Zoom Cheat Sheet'.

Please note: You must be logged into your Zoom account with the email you used to register for the General Meeting.

Q. Why is this meeting being held on Zoom Webinar?

A. Due to the limitations of the Zoom platform, regular Zoom meetings can only accommodate up to 1000 members. Since over 1000 UTFA members registered for the meeting, Zoom Webinar became our only viable option.

Q. I'm attending the General Meeting in person. What do I need to bring with me?

A. You must bring a smartphone, tablet, or laptop with you. You may wish to bring a charger or an extra battery for your device. You will be required to show your email confirmation of registration in order to check in to the event. You will also need your device to vote via Zoom poll.

Whether you are attending in person or online, you are required to log into Zoom so you will be able to vote.

We will not be providing refreshments. You may wish to bring your own water bottle.

Q. I didn't know if I would be available to attend, but now I can. Am I able to register in person at OISE?

A. As long as you have a device that is connected to the internet, you will be able to register online for the in-person event. Once your email has been verified, you will be sent a Zoom link that will allow you to join the meeting and participate. There will be no devices available for use by attendees at the meeting.

Q. I'm sure I registered, but I didn't receive a link for the meeting. What do I do now?

A. We'd be happy to look into that for you. Please check your "Other" or junk folders in your UofT Outlook email account for the confirmation email. If you did not receive the confirmation email, please email faculty@utfa.org, and we will confirm your details and resend the link.

Q. If I forget to bring my electronic device to the in-person meeting, can I attend the meeting?

A. Yes, you can attend the meeting if you have a copy of the confirmation registration email; however, you won't be able to cast votes since voting will be done electronically.

Q. If I forget to bring my electronic device to the in-person meeting, can UTFA provide me with a device?

A. No, UTFA will not have any extra devices to provide to members.

Q. My device is running low on battery power. Can I plug into an outlet by my seat in the auditorium?

A. No. There are no electrical outlets in the seating area. Please ensure that your electronic device is fully

charged or bring a portable charger with you.

Q. What happens if Zoom is experiencing a widespread outage?

A. In the unlikely event that Zoom goes down, UTFA will move the meeting to another meeting platform. All registrants will be emailed a new registration link for the meeting platform, and the meeting will proceed as planned.

Safety and Accessibility

Q. Is the Auditorium at OISE accessible?

A. Yes, the Auditorium is accessible.

Q. Will there be breaks?

A. None are scheduled. If one is needed, members can make a motion for a short break.

Q. Will refreshments be served at the meeting?

A. No. A water bottle filling station is located on the OISE main floor for members to use with a water bottle they bring with them.

Q. What steps has UTFA taken to address safety and security issues around this General Meeting?

A. Only UTFA members in good standing will be permitted to enter and participate in the meeting.

UTFA takes the safety of its members very seriously, especially around issues about which members have strongly divergent opinions and personal investment. UTFA will not accept any behaviour or conduct that may be reasonably construed as harassing or violent.

All members are expected to listen to the person who is speaking and rightfully has the floor, focus on the issues and not personalities when speaking, avoid questioning motives, and be polite. Members who fail to meet these expectations may be asked to leave the meeting.

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