MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students, Department of Political Science
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean
Date: 19 April 2023
Re: Academic Administrative Appointment – Chair, Department of Political Science
Note: For distribution broadly

It is with great pleasure that I write to inform you that the Agenda Committee of Academic Board has approved the appointment of Professor Christopher Cochrane as Chair of the Department of Political Science from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2029, including a one-year leave.

Professor Cochrane is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at U of T Scarborough. Following his PhD in Political Science from University of Toronto in 2009, he joined U of T Scarborough as Assistant Professor in 2010 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2015. His research interests are Canadian politics, ideology, party competition, computational social science, natural language processing (NLP), and linked parliamentary data.

He has a strong publication record with numerous articles, government reports, book chapters, and proceedings. He is the author of "Left and Right: The Small World of Political Ideas" (MQUP, 2015) and co-author of "Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches" (Nelson, 2020). Professor Cochrane leads the Linked Parliamentary Data Project, which is digitizing and analyzing the written record of debate in the Canadian House of Commons. He is also working with award-winning journalist, Zane Schwartz, to update and analyze the first comprehensive database of donations to federal and provincial candidates and parties. His research is supported by grants from the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) and is the recipient of the Connaught Research Grant.

Professor Cochrane is a dedicated member of the Department currently serving as Interim Chair, and previously as Associate Chair, Undergraduate (2020-22) and Associate Chair (2016-20). He has also served on the U of T Scarborough Research Advisory Board (2019), the Indigenous Working Group (2016-17), the Campus Council (2016-17), the Vice-Principal Research Advisory Board (2015-16), and various tri-campus committees.

I am grateful that Professor Cochrane will continue to serve as Chair of the Department of Political Science. He is well respected for his excellent scholarship and strong leadership. He has a deep understanding of the Department's programs, its strengths, and challenges. I am confident that he will continue to provide excellent leadership. I look forward to continuing to work with him in this role.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the advisory committee for its service in this important process. The participation of members of the committee and the input of faculty, staff, and students is greatly appreciated.