




## MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students, Department of Political Science  
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean   
Date: 29 June 2022  
Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment - Interim Chair, Department of Political Science**  
Note: For distribution broadly

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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 Interim Chair of the Department of Political Science from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. This is to replace the current Chair, Professor Margaret Kohn, who will end her term on 30 June 2022 as she has accepted another academic administrator appointment at the St. George campus effective 1 July 2022. A full Chair search will be conducted during this period.

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, and computational social science.

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. 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 Associate Chair, Undergraduate and previously as 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 very pleased that Professor Cochrane is willing to serve as Interim Chair of the Department of Political Science. I am confident that he will provide excellent leadership. I, along with the decanal team, look forward to working with him in this role.