Role of the Chancellor

Statutory Requirements of the University of Guelph Act, 1964

Under the Act, the Senate is responsible for the election of the Chancellor. The Chancellor, subject to the will of the Senate, holds office for three years (renewable) and until his/her successor is elected.

Senate has established regulations regarding the composition and procedures of the Chancellor Selection Committee, which are under the oversight of the Senate Priorities and Planning Committee.

Responsibilities

The Chancellor is the titular head of the University, and confers all degrees. The Chancellor is an ex-officio voting member of the Senate and the Board of Governors.

The Chancellor, with the President and the Chair and Vice-Chair(s) of the Board of Governors, represents the University to the external community. In this role, the Chancellor plays an essential ambassadorial role in advancing the University’s interests within the local, provincial, national and international arenas.

The Chancellors of the University of Guelph

The University of Guelph’s former chancellors and their years of service are:

- David Mirvish, theatre producer, art collector (2011-2017)
- Pamela Wallin, Senator, journalist, former Canadian Consul General to New York (2007-2011)
- Edmund Bovey, past president of the Art Gallery of Ontario (1989-1990)
- Pauline McGibbon, former Ontario lieutenant-governor (1977-1983)
- Emmet Hall, former chief justice of Saskatchewan and the Court of Appeal (1971-1977)
- George Drew, former mayor of Guelph, Ontario premier, Canada high commissioner to the United Kingdom (1965-1971)