

Report to the Senate
March 26, 2009
Presiding at Convocation

In March 2007, the Senate approved the following recommendation from the Senate Convocation Taskforce:

Recommendation 3.1:

The Taskforce recommends that the Senate appoint the Vice-Principal (Academic) and the Vice-Principal (Research) to preside at convocation in the absence of the Chancellor or the Principal and Vice-Chancellor. The exercise of this authority will be decided by the Principal after consultation with the Chancellor, once the convocation dates have been approved in Sessional Dates.

The following background supported this recommendation:

The Chancellor presides at Convocation and confers the degrees. In the absence of the Chancellor, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor is authorized to preside at Convocation. An increased number of ceremonies will probably require modifications to this practice to reduce the commitment of the Chancellor and the Principal to a reasonable number of ceremonies for each officer in any one convocation cycle. ...

The appointment of another officer to preside at convocation is possible within the provisions of the Royal Charter and the amending Statutes, which provide for the election and appointment of the Principal, the Chancellor, the Vice-Principal and the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Principal (Academic) and the Vice-Principal (Research), both academic Vice-Principals who are members of the Senate, would be appropriate officers to preside at convocation in the absence of the Chancellor or the Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

At this time (March 2009) it is proposed that the Senate extend the authority to preside at Convocation to include the Dean of Arts and Science and the Dean of Graduate Studies to ensure that we are prepared for the twenty convocation ceremonies planned for this Spring.

Motion:

That the Senate appoint the Dean of Arts and Science and the Dean of Graduate Studies to preside at convocation in the absence of the Chancellor, or the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, or the Vice-Principal (Academic), or the Vice-Principal (Research). The exercise of this authority will be decided by the Principal after consultation with the Chancellor, once the convocation dates have been approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas R. Williams
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Chair of the Senate