

Submissions to the Senate Agenda Committee for the March 2012 Meeting of Senate

Respectfully submitted by Mark Jones, Faculty Senator for Arts and Science,
13 March 2012

I submit for the agenda, under “Other Business,” the following information:

Second, although the online [Petition to Senate Concerning Admission Freezes and Closures](#) was submitted to Senate in November with 580 signatures, it has remained online, and it had 739 signatures as of 6 Feb. 2012. The text of this petition is as follows:

“Given the recent announcement that Queen’s “is suspending admission and upper-year transfers to the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program for the 2012-2013 academic year based on an assessment of the faculty resources available to support the program”;

“Given that the “Central Function” of Queen's Senate is to “determine all matters of an academic character that affect the University as a whole” (“Purpose and Functions of Senate“) and that “Senate has,” more specifically, “the authority to [. . .] approve university-level policies relating to the academic mission and academic services including but not limited to policies related to admissions” (ibid., Function 8);

“We the undersigned ask that the BFA admissions-freeze and all such contemplated freezes, closures, and amalgamations be henceforth submitted to the proper authority of Queen’s Senate for approval;

“We also submit that all such policy decisions must be based not only on financial or “resources” criteria but on long-range academic considerations, and thus require consultation with students and faculty via their Faculty Boards, Senate, and other representative and deliberative bodies;

“And finally, in connection with Senate’s consideration of the academic merits of Queen’s Arts programs, we urge Senate to take into careful consideration the many [testimonials](#) that have been offered by students, alumni, and concerned community members.”