

Senate Operations Review Committee
Report to Senate
May 22, 2012

As this is the last meeting of Senate for the 2011/12 academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to apprise the members of Senate of the work conducted by the SORC related to the review of standing committees of Senate. As reported at the February 2012 meeting of Senate, in September 2010, the Senate Operations Review Committee was asked to review the composition of Senate. In order to proceed with a comprehensive review, the committee first reviewed the Functions of Senate resulting in a revised document approved in April 2011. In September 2011, as the next stage of review, SORC began a review of the standing committees of Senate in relation to the approved Functions of Senate.

SORC identified principles which committee members felt should be core to all Senate standing committees. The Committee then did a thorough review of the current standing committee's terms of reference and mapped these to the new functions of Senate. A draft committee proposal was developed and sent to key stakeholders for input.

The next stage of the process was a series of consultations with committee holders in regard to the principles and draft proposal for consolidation and rationalizing the standing committees of Senate. The Committee or SORC Chair consulted either in person with the Chairs of all Senate standing committees, with the exception of the Senate Nominating Committee (due to scheduling difficulty); the University Librarian; the University Archivist; Registrar; the Vice Provost and Dean, Student Affairs; Chief Information Officer, the Deputy-Provost and the Principal. The feedback received will be incorporated into future recommendations regarding the standing committees of Senate.

The next step is to request that Senate on September 25, 2012, move into informal session to allow members of Senate to discuss specific questions on the matter of Standing Committees of Senate. As a reminder, section 26 of the Procedures of Senate state:

Standing Committees are formed to consider continuing questions. A Standing Committee is established, and its membership and terms of reference determined by resolution of the Senate. Once established, a Standing Committee serves continuously with progressive changes in membership. Terms of service on standing committees shall normally be 2 years unless specified otherwise in the terms of reference. Each Standing Committee shall report to the Senate at least

In response to its request to review terms of reference and composition of standing committees, SORC has received modifications to terms of reference from the Senate ~~Equality~~ ~~Equity~~ ~~Committee~~; Senate Operations Review Committee ~~and~~ Senate Committee on Academic Development and anticipates responses in the fall from Creative Arts and Public Lectures, Senate Library Committee, Senate Residences Committee, Senate Orientation Activities Review Board, and the Senate Advisory Research Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie Culham, Chair