

Informal Session of the Senate on September 23, 2010

To provide the opportunity for Senators to assist the Senate Operations Review Committee (SORC) in determining “guiding principles” for the composition of Senate, the Senate Agenda Committee has scheduled an informal session.

Purpose and Process

The purpose is to allow a free discussion on a complex issue when no specific action is required. No motions may be made or votes taken with the exception of a straw vote to gauge the preferences of the meeting. (*Senate Rules of Procedure, IV, Informal Session*)

Therefore, a motion will be proposed by the Senate Agenda Committee “*that the composition of the Senate be considered in an informal session chaired by Senator Oosthuizen.*”

The Senate will move into Informal Session under III, Reports of Committees, 6 (a).

Proposed Format for Informal Session, September 23, 2010

Following discussion at the Senate Agenda Committee meeting, SORC plans to set the context by asking Senators to take a step back from the detailed questions it raised on April 22 and to first consider the following:

- a) What is the primary purpose of Senate?
- b) What are the vital functions of Senate that should be preserved?
- c) What should the Senate stop doing?
- d) What should the Senate consider doing to move forward?

Senator Stairs, Chair of SORC, will give an introduction on behalf of the committee, and then 35 minutes have been allocated for discussion.

After the Informal Session, Senators will be invited to submit their written views to SORC on the questions circulated on April 22 using an online form or on a paper copy provided at the meeting.

Background Information

SORC Interim Report on the Composition of the Senate, April 22, 2010
http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/Apr22_10/SORCRpt.pdf