

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.75-154

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From R. SCHIFFER, SENATOR

Subject SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND RULES
- TERMS OF OFFICE

Date OCTOBER 15, 1975

MOTION: "That the terms of office for the elected positions
on the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)
be two years."

Note: The intent is that the terms of office now show as being to
September 30, 1977 for the three Senator and one Student
Senator elected positions.

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To.....SENATE.....

From.....Roger Schiffer, Senator.....

Subject Senate Ctee. on Agenda & Rules.....

Date.....October 15, 1975.....

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MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From Roger Schiffer, Senator

Subject Senate Ctee. on Agenda & Rules

Date October 15, 1975

In reviewing the committee changes suggested by the Senate Committee on Committees and approved by Senate at the September meeting, it became evident that I and others had not given any consideration to the large number of committee positions which have an unlimited term of office. Once we noted this omission on our part we set about assessing the impact of this situation.

In most cases the committees involved were not sufficiently important to warrant asking Senate at this early date to review its recent decision, and we felt that time would tell whether limitations on terms would improve committee functioning. In other cases the majority of positions depended on one's position on faculty curriculum committees, or one's position as Dean, etc. In only one committee did we consider it important that Senate set a limit on term of office right now. This was the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR), and our suggestion to Senate is based on the particular role of this committee in shaping Senate deliberations and the structure of Senate committees. It is possible that Senators elected to SCAR by this Senate may retain their positions on Senate for a number of years, and eventually no longer reflect the attitudes of a future Senate. Leaving these positions as permanent sinecures hampers the ability of future Senates to go about their business in a flexible manner, suited to then current needs and styles.

In its function as an agenda setting body, this committee should be in a position to recognize and react to current priorities and to ensure that Senate can deal with the business it needs to. Although it is not necessarily a requirement for seniority on

committees, it is indeed possible that people with permanent positions may develop an obstructionist manner contrary to the best interests of Senate. Such people may also be less willing to re-examine rules and to suggest new procedures which may be critical to the wellbeing and relevance of this body.

Most importantly, this committee has now been charged with a periodic review of the Senate committee structure and should be in a position to sweep out deadwood and to recognize new needs, as well as new sources of energy, in the same constructive manner that the Senate Committee on Committees has managed to do.

I am not trying to suggest that five or six years service on Senate ensures powerseeking, intractability and overall deterioration of one's emotional and intellectual faculties, but rather that Senate will benefit from the ability to periodically reconsider those it elects to SCAR. If the members are still serving with the same zeal and understanding they showed when elected they will probably be reelected. Otherwise Senate will be able to choose those better suited to the serious tasks set for SCAR; tasks which are more than ever central to the effectiveness of Senate.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND RULES (SCAR) - standing
(Reporting Category "A")

<u>Members</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Ex-officio - Chairman			P. Jewett
Vice-President, Academic	Ex-officio - Vice-Chairman			B. G. Wilson
Registrar	Ex-officio			H. M. Evans
Director, Secretariat and Office Services	Ex-officio			H. D. Nagel
Senator	Elected	2 years	Sep 30/77	D. R. Birch
Senator	by	2 years	Sep 30/77	R. C. Brown
Senator	and from	2 years	Sep 30/77	J.P.M. Mackauer
Senator (Student)	Senate	2 years	Sep 30/77	M. Shillow

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

- i) To advise the Chairman in determining the items for the Open and Closed agendas of Senate.
- ii) To recommend to Senate rules and procedures for the conduct of its business.
- iii) To periodically review the structure and terms of reference of the various standing committees of Senate, and to make recommendations to Senate as appropriate.
- iv) To consider and take action on behalf of the Senate by referring to the appropriate Senate Committee or Senate all matters that may be referred to the Senate by the Board (See Univ. Act, Section 37 p).

Original approved by Senate September 9, 1968. Revision approved by Senate May 7, 1973. Membership and terms of reference revised September 8, 1975.