

## SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

Date: January 27, 1993

Subject: Change to Rules of Senate

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At the January meeting of Senate, Notice of Motion to change the Rules of Senate was duly given by SCAR. Accordingly, the following motion is now presented to Senate for action:

"that the Rules of Senate, Section II, Officers, A. Chair, be changed

from: Chair: The Chair of Senate is empowered and expected to take actions he/she deems necessary to ensure the orderly advancement of the legitimate business of Senate. In case the President is unable to chair a meeting of Senate, the Academic Vice-President will take the Chair.

to: Chair: The Chair of Senate is empowered and expected to take the actions he/she deems necessary to ensure the orderly advancement of the legitimate business of the Senate. The Vice-Chair shall be elected annually by and from the members of Senate, and shall sit as a member of the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules. In no case shall a Vice-Chair serve more than two consecutive terms."

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To: SCAR

From: Ron Heath  
Registrar & Secretary of Senate

Subject: Vice-Chair of Senate

Date: December 16, 1992

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Dr. Munro and I have recently discussed and exchanged correspondence on the current practice at Senate of having the Vice-President, Academic act as Vice-Chair of Senate in the absence of the President. Let me summarize my findings on this question.

Up until April 1969, Senate had followed the practice of having the Chancellor take the Chair in the absence of the President, and, in the Chancellor's absence, the Faculty Dean with the most seniority who was present at the meeting was designated as the Acting Chair.

At the May 1969 meeting, the following motion was passed:

"In case the President is unable to chair a meeting of Senate, the Academic Vice-President shall take the chair. If both the President and the Academic Vice-President are unable to chair, the most senior Dean of a Faculty shall be Chairman where seniority shall be determined in terms of the date of appointment as Dean."

At that time, The 1963 version of the University Act was in force and the first item read as follows: 54. "It is the duty of Senate and it has power a) to regulate the conduct of its meetings and proceedings, including the determining of the quorum necessary for the transaction of business and the election of its members to the Board of Governors", and Section 60. reads: "The President is Chairman of Senate and of Faculty Council and is a member of each Faculty. In the absence of the Chancellor, the President shall be Chairman of Convocation and shall confer degrees." There doesn't appear to have been any rule within the U.A. that set out who should be the Vice-Chairman of Senate.

Consequently, Senate appears to have developed its own rules.

The University Act was reopened in 1974 and the version we have (that says our version was 'consolidated for convenience only in 1978' carries this statement:

36. The academic governance of the university is vested in the Senate and it has power a) to regulate the conduct of its meetings and proceedings, including the determination of the quorum necessary for the transaction of business, and the election of a vice chairman at least annually, who shall chair meetings in the absence of the president; but in no case shall a vice chairman serve more than two consecutive terms. We can find nothing in Senate cross reference that would indicate this change in the Act was ever discussed or acted on by Senate.

Consequently the current practice of having the Vice-President Academic assume the Chair, *ex officio*, appears to violate the terms of the University Act. In addition, since much of Senate business comes forward from committees chaired by the Vice-President, Academic, there are strong logistic arguments to have some other designated Chair.