

SENATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES
STUDENT SERVICES

TO: Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

FROM: Kate Ross, Registrar and Senior Director, Student Enrolment
Michael Letourneau, Student Senator

DATE: April 17, 2008

SUBJECT: Revision to the Rules of Senate – **Notice of Motion**

According to the Rules of Senate, the attached revision to the Rules of Senate is presented to Senate as a notice of motion (without debate) at the May meeting and will be considered for approval at the June meeting of Senate.

The purpose of the amendments are to update the Rules to (a) reflect that as of May 1, 2008, there will be two student societies independently representing SFU's undergraduate and graduate students (submitted by Michael Letourneau); and (b) to delete an election eligibility requirement related to undergraduate students which is difficult to administer and no longer applicable due to changes in the University Act; and to clarify current administrative practice with respect to nominations for Convocation Senator (submitted by Kate Ross).

Item: Senate Election Rules (Rules of Senate, Appendix C)

Revision

E. Students; Student Association

1. For the purposes of nominating, voting and standing for office in the election of students to the Senate and the Board of Governors:
 - a) ~~At Simon Fraser University the Student Society is the alma mater society (See University Act, Part 1, Section 1);~~
 - i) the Simon Fraser Student Society is the undergraduate student society, and
 - ii) the Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University is the graduate student society(See University Act, Part 7, Section 35(h))
 - b) "undergraduate students" means those who are members of the Simon Fraser Student Society and who also:
 - i) are in good academic standing and are registered in at least one credit course in the semester in which nominations are due, or
 - ii) ~~are in good academic standing and were registered in at least one credit course in either of the two previous semesters in which nominations are due,~~
or
 - iii) are registered in a co-op work term in the semester in which nominations are due, or
 - iv) are designated by resolution of the Senate as an undergraduate student; and
 - c) "graduate students" means those who are members of the Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University and who also:
 - i) are duly registered as graduate students in the semester in which nominations are due, or
 - ii) are designated by resolution of the Senate as a graduate student.
2. Undergraduate students and graduate students are eligible to be nominated as student members of the Senate and the Board of Governors.
3. During the one-year term of office as a student member of the Senate or the Board of Governors undergraduate students and graduate students
 - a) must maintain registered status at the University for at least two semesters,
 - b) must not withdraw, or be required to withdraw, from the University.
4. There shall be at least one graduate student and one undergraduate student among the total number of students elected to Senate under Part 7, Section 35(2)(h) of the University Act.

Rationale

The *University Act* s.35(h) requires that the students to be elected to Senate be members of "an undergraduate student society or a graduate student society", and s.19(e) likewise requires such membership for election to the Board of Governors. This revision designates the SFSS to represent undergraduate students and the GSS to represent graduate students for the purposes of Senate elections.

The term "alma mater society" was removed, as it was replaced with "undergraduate student society" in/around 1999 when the language on student societies was updated.

Rationale for deletion of E.1.b)ii

This regulation which was created in order to satisfy the requirement of the University Act for students to be 'full-time' is very difficult to administer and is no longer applicable since a student no longer has to be 'full time' in order to hold a seat on Senate or the Board of Governors (Repealed in October 2003). The proposed change also creates parity of requirements for both undergraduate students and graduate students.

Item: Senate Election Rules (Rules of Senate, Appendix D)

Revision**D. Nominations**

3. All nominations of candidates for membership on the Senate who are to be elected by and from the Convocation shall be signed by not less than five members entitled to vote in the election. *All candidates for membership on Senate who are to be elected by and from the Convocation must hold a degree from Simon Fraser University at the time of nomination.* Faculty members may sign nomination papers, may vote, but cannot be candidates.

Rationale for revision

It has always been understood that nominees for Convocation Senator must have a degree from Simon Fraser University, and the proposed revision will clarify and make explicit this administrative practice.