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**MEMORANDUM** 

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**ATTENTION**      Senate Committee on Agenda and  
Rules  
**FROM**      Tom Nault, Secretary of Senate  
**RE:**      School of Medicine Senate Membership

**DATE**      September 18, 2025  
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It was previously decided by SCAR to not have representation on Senate from the School of Medicine until the first class started their studies in August 2026. This was to allow for faculty hiring and students to have begun studies to ensure fulsome representation of the School. This approach though well intentioned is inconsistent with the BC *University Act* section 35 (2) which outlines the membership of Senate. This section does not allow for a time delay for the Dean position being added to the Senate.

The addition of the Dean, School of Medicine, to Senate would necessitate the addition of two faculty members and one student to Senate. The Senate Rules stipulate that faculty members on Senate serve a term of three years and student Senators serve a term of one year. Further, the Senate Election Rules B (1) staggers terms so that roughly one-third of faculty seats on Senate are elected each year.

Consistent with Senate Rules Section1, faculty members from the School of Medicine will be eligible to serve on Senate provided they have an appointment of at least 0.5 and are appointed for a term of at least one year.

Proposed way forward

### **Student Senators**

- As soon as reasonably practical, a byelection will be called for the undergraduate student vacancy to serve on Senate until the end of May 2026. Notionally, this student will represent the School of Medicine, but the student may be currently enrolled in any school or faculty of SFU.
- One student space will remain open from the elections to elect student Senators for June 2026 to May 2027. A byelection will be called for the vacant seat for the School of Medicine in August 2026 to serve until May 2027. At that point, the regular schedule for Student Senator elections will apply
- The Student Senator will attend the Senate meeting after they are duly elected

## **Faculty Senators**

- As soon as reasonably practical, a byelection will be called for the two vacant faculty member positions of Senate. One position will be until the of May 2026, the other until the end of May 2027
  - This staggering is intended to prevent School of Medicine turnover taking place in the same year
- For the Senate elections that take place in Spring 2026, there will be at least two Senators elected to represent the School of Medicine, one will be the Senator whose term expires in May 2026. The second is the Joint Faculty Senator, as each Faculty is guaranteed at least one Faculty member in this category.
- Senators from the School of Medicine will be selected per the normal Senate election rules starting in 2027.
- The Faculty Senators will attend the Senate meeting after they are duly elected.

## **Dean School of Medicine**

- The Dean will be invited to immediately attend Senate meetings as a guest. In the event of closed session material, the Dean will not be allowed to attend as a guest unless the item pertains to the School of Medicine.
- The Dean will become a voting member of Senate when either the Student Senator or at least one Faculty Senator from the School of Medicine is officially elected to Senate.