

## **Standing Committees of Senate Rules for the Conduct of Business**

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The business of the Senate standing committees shall follow the same rules of conduct as approved in the Senate bylaws and meetings will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, except as otherwise stated below.

### **1. Procedures**

- 1.1. Decisions made by standing committees will be made by motions which are voted upon and recorded in the minutes. Motions will be decided by in-person votes at a meeting or by email only in the circumstances identified in Section 2.2. In-person meetings may include teleconferencing or videoconferencing, at the discretion of the chair. Minutes of the meetings shall be provided to Senate for information.
- 1.2. The chairs of standing committees in which the chair is nominated by the committee and approved by Senate will be no longer than one year and will end on July 31.
- 1.3. Whenever possible, the chairs of standing committees are nominated in April or May for the next academic year to ensure continuity.
- 1.4. Chairs of standing committees may speak at Senate on items from standing committees to Senate.
- 1.5. Chairs of standing committees with membership on other standing committees of Senate by virtue of their chairmanship, who wish to appoint a designate, shall notify the Chair of the host committee in advance.
- 1.6. Standing committees will elect a vice-chair annually from its membership who will chair meetings in the absence of the chair and in the event that the chair wishes to be an active participant in discussions. If the chair or vice-chair is absent from a meeting, the committee may appoint an acting vice-chair for that meeting.

### **2. Voting**

- 2.1. Resolutions proposed at standing committees may be approved by a majority vote of the voting members present. The committee chair may vote.
- 2.2. Voting on resolutions may be conducted by e-mail and approved if the number of voters attains the quorum requirement of the standing committee and if the resolution is approved by a vote of 75% or greater but only under the following circumstances:
  - a. Where the standing committee has discussed the subject matter of the resolution and requires further alteration or refinement of the motion and resolves that the final resolution may be approved prior to the next scheduled meeting by way of an e-mail vote; OR

- b. Where the chair and vice chair of the standing committee unanimously agree that exceptional and extenuating circumstances exist that require an approved resolution prior to the next scheduled meeting because of urgency, then an e-mail vote may be conducted under the following additional provisions:
    - i. The rationale for the e-mail vote and its urgency must be communicated to members of the standing committee;
    - ii. Two business days must be set aside for reply-all e-mail comments and questions from standing committee members before e-mail voting may be conducted and then at least three days set aside for voting.
- 2.3. All results of e-mail voting must be reported to the next meeting of the standing committee and entered into the minutes.

### **3. Meeting Schedule**

- 3.1. The following standing committees will meet monthly, unless cancelled by the chair, with a minimum of three meetings per year. If needed, the chair may call a meeting with at least seven days' notice.
- Academic Planning and Priorities Committee
  - Senate Governance Committee
  - Undergraduate Education Committee
- 3.2. The following standing committees will meet as required, as determined by the committee, with a minimum of three meetings per year. If needed, the chair may call a meeting with at least seven days' notice.
- Senate Awards and Honours Committee
  - Faculty Standards Committee of Senate
  - Senate Graduate Studies Committee
  - Indigenization Committee of Senate
  - Senate Research Committee
  - Senate Teaching and Learning Committee

### **4. Terms of office**

- 4.1. The terms of the Senate members on the Senate standing committees shall be the balance of the members' terms on Senate, renewable for additional terms, subject to being re-elected to Senate, except in the case of students, whose terms shall be a maximum of three years, subject to being re-elected to Senate.
- 4.2. Non-Senate members on the standing committees shall have two-year terms. This does not apply to ex-officio members. Membership for non-members of Senate on the standing committees may be renewed for additional terms.
- 4.3. To allow for some continuity on Senate standing committees when all faculty terms are ending at once, the Secretariat shall approach faculty members to ask some if they wish to extend their term by one year, after consultation with the committee chair.

## **5. Attendance**

- 5.1. Regular attendance is expected of all members of the Senate standing committees.
- 5.2. Any member of a standing committee who misses two consecutive meetings per year, without prior arrangement with the chair, shall receive written notice from the chair. Any member of a standing committee who misses three consecutive regular meetings per year, without prior arrangement with the Chair, and who has received written notice, shall have his/her membership on the standing committee reviewed by the Senate Governance Committee.

## **6. Amendments**

- 6.1. Changes to the rules for the conduct of business may be submitted, as required, to the Senate Governance Committee for review and, if appropriate, recommended to Senate for approval.
- 6.2. Each standing committee will review its terms of reference annually between January and April. Changes will be submitted to the Senate Governance Committee no later than the third week of April for review by Senate Governance Committee in May and to Senate for approval in June.