



MEMO

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<b>TO</b>	<b>Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules</b>
<b>FROM</b>	Peter Dickinson, Chair, Senate Nominating Committee
<b>RE</b>	Student Alternates
<b>DATE</b>	23 April, 2008

Motion

That Senate approve the addition of student alternates to the Research Ethics Board, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries, the two Awards Adjudication Committees (SUAAC and SGAAC), the Senate Committee on International Activities, and the International Student Exchange Committee, effective June 2008.

Background and Rationale:

Senator Harding raised the issue of alternates for student positions on Senate Committees in September 2007. The Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules referred this to the Senate Nominating Committee (SNC) and SNC, under the guidance of Alison Watt, Secretary of SNC, has been working on this in the interim. I apologize that this has taken longer than anticipated to get sorted out.

Senator Harding's proposal was that Senate should approve the addition of at least one undergraduate student (alternate), graduate student (alternate), or student Senator (alternate), where applicable to the membership of Senate committees where alternates for students do not currently exist.

Ms. Watt surveyed those Senate committees without alternates regarding this issue and the following committees would indeed welcome the suggestion that alternates be added to their membership:

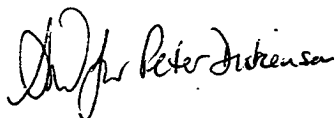
Committee	Additions
Research Ethics Board	one student (alternate)
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	one undergraduate student (alternate)



Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries	one undergraduate student (alternate) and one graduate student (alternate)
Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee	one undergraduate student (alternate)
Senate Graduate Awards Adjudication Committee	one graduate student (alternate)
Senate Committee on International Activities	one student (alternate)
International Student Exchange Committee	one student (alternate)

Other committees did not feel the need for an alternate at this time.

The discussions about these additions reinforced the understanding that committees have various ways in which alternates are involved – depending largely on the modus operandi of the committees. For example, if a committee reviews a specific case and goes on to review that same case during the following meeting, an alternate probably should not be used, because he/she cannot be fully informed of the discussions that took place in the earlier committee meeting. It would be easier to mandate one specific method of working with alternates – but as with many situations, a one-size-fits-all approach will not work with the variety of committees we have. Therefore, I suggest that each committee with alternates determine and clarify the role and activity of alternates for that particular committee. This could include the option that a student member of a committee who might be absent or unavailable for a semester would be replaced by the alternate for that entire semester.



Peter Dickinson