

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

Re: Senate Committee on University Priorities – additional member

Date: November 23, 2004

Senator Gisele da Silva submitted a recommendation to amend the membership of several Senate committees to add an additional student. The basis for this proposal is contained in the attached memorandum dated October 14, 2004. This matter was debated extensively at the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules which now forwards the following motion about the addition of one student senator on the Senate Committee on University Priorities to Senate for consideration.

Motion

That Senate approve the addition of one student senator to the membership of the Senate Committee on University Priorities.

Alison Watt
Secretary, SCAR

Memorandum

To: Senate
From: Gisele da Silva
Subject: Senate Committee Compositions
Date: October 14, 2004

Motion:

That Senate amends the terms of reference of each committee of Senate referred to in Column 1 of the following table by adding the position indicated in Column 2 of the table to the committee's composition:

<u>Name of Committee</u>	<u>New Committee Position</u>
Senate Committee on University Priorities	One student senator
Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning	One student (undergraduate or graduate)
Senate Committee on Enrolment Management and Planning	One student senator
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	One undergraduate student
Senate Graduate Studies Committee	One graduate student *
Senate Library Committee	One student (undergraduate or graduate) **
Senate Graduate Awards Adjudication Committee	One graduate student
Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee	One undergraduate student

* This position would be elected by and from among the graduate student body

** This position would not sit on the Library Penalties Appeals Committee

Rationale:

As a result of the creation of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the composition of many Senate committees has been expanded overnight. The composition of each of the committees listed in the motion includes (at least) six faculty members, one per Faculty. In most of these committees, there are only two student members of the committee. In every case, the ratio of students to faculty members is less than 1:2.

This is problematic because the *University Act* lays out the composition of Senate through a formula that states that the ratio of administrators to faculty and students is to be 1:2:1 – the number of administrators on Senate is equal to the number of students, and the number of faculty Senators is equal to twice the number of administrators (or students).

There are a number of committees where it would be unwise to apply the ratio of 1:2:1 when designing the committee's structure – the Senate Appeals Committee, for example. However, in the case of the committees listed above, I believe that Senate should seriously consider increasing the role that students play in the Senate committee system.