

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.73-96

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND RULES

Subject NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE

Date JULY 26, 1973

At the May 7, 1973 meeting of Senate, the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules were instructed to recommend to the October 1973 meeting of Senate rules and procedures for the conduct of the business of Senate; in preparing their recommendation the Committee were instructed to bear in mind Senate's current and precedent procedural experience.

The Committee have in mind to incorporate subsequent rules, practices, and precedents with the basic Rules of Procedure of Senate as defined on April 4, 1966, and to present the whole for the approval of Senate as the working rules of Senate.

This will, in effect, amount to an alteration of or addition to the Rules of Procedure of Senate as defined in April 1966. Under the Rules of April, 1966, an alteration of the Rules of Procedure shall require an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the membership of Senate to carry. According to Robert's Rules of Order the usual practice in amending the rules requires either two-thirds vote at one session, or a majority vote in two successive sessions; the current requirement of approval by two-thirds of the whole membership is therefore unusually stringent, and was, presumably, designed to prevent hasty or ill-considered alteration of the Rules of Procedure. Recent experience shows that amendment to the Rules of Senate would be very difficult; in the course of the last 28 meetings of Senate, on 9 occasions an amendment of the Rules would have been impossible because fewer than two-thirds of the membership of Senate were present, at 3 meetings a unanimous vote would have been required, and at 5 meetings contrary votes by three members or less would have defeated a motion to amend the Rules.

The Committee are of the opinion that the proposed amendment would create a more practical role and that Senate would be protected from capricious and ill-considered amendment by the necessary advance notice of any proposal to change the Rules of Procedure.

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SENATE

From SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND RULES

Subject NOTICE OF MOTION

Date JULY 26, 1973

In accordance with Rule I of Senate Rules of Procedure, April 4, 1966, notice is hereby given of the following motions to be presented at the September 10, 1973 meeting of Senate:

- MOTION 1: "That Rule I of Rules of Procedure of Senate, Status of these Rules of Procedure, sentence 2, be amended to read, 'Alterations of these Rules of Procedure shall require written notice at a regular meeting of Senate prior to the meeting at which a vote on the proposed alteration is taken, which vote shall require an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the voting members present to carry.'"
- MOTION 2: "That the rules of Senate be suspended in order to permit a postal vote on the motion to amend the Rules of Procedure."