



MEMO

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TO Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

FROM Alison Watt, Director, University Secretariat, Secretary, SNC

RE On-line balloting for Senate Committee positions

DATE 23 April 2008

Motion 1

That the Rules of Senate requiring a notice of motion for changes to the Rules of Senate be suspended.

Motion 2

That Senate approve a change to the Rules of Senate that would permit on-line voting for Senate Committee elections effective June 2008 for a one year trial period.

Both motions require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Background

There is an annual turnover of committee positions in June and Senate has to fill, by election, nearly 100 committee positions. In addition, vacancies occur virtually every month so that Senate is voting on these positions at almost every meeting.

In June, we circulate a set of candidate statements received prior to the Senate distribution deadline, and more statements are circulated at the Senate meeting. On occasion there are the same number of candidates as positions, which means for those particular positions the candidate is elected by acclamation. Otherwise, Senators receive a batch of ballots (last year it was about 22 ballots) and are asked to vote on these at the Senate meeting.

We are requesting permission to use a WebSurvey ballot for these Senate committee elections for a one year period to see how well it works. There are several reasons

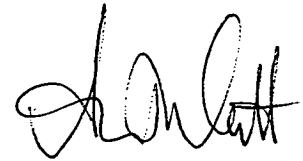


for doing this:

1. It would give Senators enough time to be able to review statements before voting.
2. It would be more efficient with the electronic tabulation of results (and would save paper).
3. All Senators would be able to vote – even if they were unavoidably absent from the Senate meeting.

The process that would be used would be as follows:

- a. Candidate statements would be put online. The list of vacancies and nominees (so far) would be circulated, as we do now, with the Senate package.
- b. Following the Senate meeting, a web-survey ballot would be released with an email announcement to all Senators.
- c. Voting would be permitted for 48 hours.
- d. Election results would be released within 3 days of the end of voting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Latt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "L".