

SENATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES  
STUDENT SERVICES

TO: Senate

FROM: Kate Ross, Registrar and Senior Director, Student Enrolment  
Michael Letourneau, Student Senator

DATE: May 13, 2008

SUBJECT: Revision to the Rules of Senate

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According to the Rules of Senate, the attached revision to the Rules of Senate was presented to Senate as a notice of motion (without debate) at the May 12, 2008 meeting and is now forwarded to Senate for consideration.

## Motion 1:

“that Senate approve the revision to the Rules of Senate, Section E.1 (Students; Student Association), sub-sections (a) and (c)”

The purpose of the amendment is to update the Rules to reflect that as of May 1, 2008, there will be two student societies independently representing SFU’s undergraduate and graduate students. (submitted by Michael Letourneau)

## Motion 2:

“that Senate approve the revision to the Rules of Senate, Section E.1 (Students; Student Association), sub-section b.ii”

The purpose of the amendment is to delete an election eligibility criterion which was originally created to satisfy a requirement in the University Act that students be full-time. Since the full-time requirement was repealed in the University Act, this section is no longer applicable. Also, this changes a requirement for eligibility to create parity and simplify who is eligible. (submitted by Kate Ross)

## Motion 3:

“that Senate approve the revision to the Rules of Senate, Section D.3 (Nominations)”

The purpose of the amendment is to provide clarification with respect to nominations for Convocation Senator and to ease the process for determining eligibility. (submitted by Kate Ross).

**Item: Senate Election Rules (Rules of Senate, Appendix C)**

**Revision**

**E. Students; Student Association**

1. For the purposes of nominating, voting and standing for office in the election of students to the Senate and the Board of Governors:
  - a) ~~At Simon Fraser University the Student Society is the alma mater society (See University Act, Part 1, Section 1):~~
    - i) the Simon Fraser Student Society is the undergraduate student society, and
    - ii) the Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University is the graduate student society  
(See University Act, Part 7, Section 35(h))
  - b) "undergraduate students" means those who are members of the Simon Fraser Student Society and who also:
    - i) are in good academic standing and are registered in at least one credit course in the semester in which nominations are due, or
    - ii) ~~are in good academic standing and were registered in at least one credit course in either of the two previous semesters in which nominations are due,~~  
or
    - iii) are registered in a co-op work term in the semester in which nominations are due, or
    - iv) are designated by resolution of the Senate as an undergraduate student; and
  - c) "graduate students" means those who are members of the Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University and who also:
    - i) are duly registered as graduate students in the semester in which nominations are due, or
    - ii) are designated by resolution of the Senate as a graduate student.
2. Undergraduate students and graduate students are eligible to be nominated as student members of the Senate and the Board of Governors.
3. During the one-year term of office as a student member of the Senate or the Board of Governors undergraduate students and graduate students
  - a) must maintain registered status at the University for at least two semesters,
  - b) must not withdraw, or be required to withdraw, from the University.
4. There shall be at least one graduate student and one undergraduate student among the total number of students elected to Senate under Part 7, Section 35(2)(h) of the University Act.

**Rationale**

The *University Act* s.35(h) requires that the students to be elected to Senate be members of "an undergraduate student society or a graduate student society", and s.19(e) likewise requires such membership for election to the Board of Governors. This revision designates the SFSS to represent undergraduate students and the GSS to represent graduate students for the purposes of Senate elections.

The term "alma mater society" was removed, as it was replaced with "undergraduate student society" in/around 1999 when the language on student societies was updated.

**Rationale for deletion of E.1.b)ii**

This regulation was originally created in order to satisfy the requirement of the University Act that students be 'full-time'. The University Act in October 2003 repealed the full-time requirement so this criterion is no longer applicable. Also, this changes a requirement for eligibility to simplify who is eligible and to create parity of requirements for both undergraduate students and graduate students.

**Item:** Senate Election Rules (Rules of Senate, Appendix D)

**Revision**

**D. Nominations**

3. All nominations of candidates for membership on the Senate who are to be elected by and from the Convocation shall be signed by not less than five members entitled to vote in the election. *Members of Convocation who are defined as graduates must hold a degree from Simon Fraser University at the time of nomination.* Faculty members may sign nomination papers, may vote, but cannot be candidates.

**Rationale for revision**

Following consultation with several Senators after the May Senate meeting, the proposed change has been reworded from "All candidates for membership on Senate who are to be elected by and from the Convocation must hold a degree from Simon Fraser University at the time of nomination" to the wording in italics above. It has always been understood that nominees for Convocation Senator must have a degree from Simon Fraser University, and the proposed revision will clarify and ease the process for determining eligibility.