

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

Registrar and Secretary of the Senate

To: SCAR

From: Ron Heath

Re: Student Representation
on Senate Committees

Date: May 15, 1991

At the last meeting of SCAR, I was asked to report on the question of student membership on Senate Committees. There are 20 committees of Senate (including sub-committees of Senate Committees), with a total of 54 student representatives. In some cases, membership on one Committee carries with it membership on another. This total includes those identified as Alternate members. There are 14 elected students on Senate.

In general, students members are determined in four ways:

- 1) nominated by the Senate Nominating Committee, with elections occurring at Senate;
 - SCAP 3 Student Senators
 - SCUB 3 Student Senators (Student Senators from SCAP)
 - SCAR 1 Student Senator
 - SCCS 1 Student Senator and 1 Student Senator Alternate
 - SCHD 1 Student Senator
 - SLC 1 Student Senator and 1 Student Senator Alternate
 - SNC 1 Student Senator and 1 Student Senator Alternate
 - ESC 1 Student Senator
- 2) named by the Student Society;
 - SCAD 3 students and 1 student alternate
 - SPCSAB 1 undergraduate student and 1 graduate student
 - SUAAC 1 undergraduate student (same as on SPCSAB)
1 graduate student
 - SGAAC 1 graduate student (same as on SPCSAB)
1 undergraduate student
 - SAB 2 students and 2 student alternates
- 3) elected by constituents;
 - SGSC 5 graduate students (one from each Faculty) and 5 graduate student alternates (elected by graduate students in the Faculty)
 - ACNGP 1 graduate student (elected by and from the graduate students on the SGSC)
- 4) elected by members of another Senate Committee;
 - SCEMP 1 Student Senator elected by members of SCAP
 - SDCPC 2 Student Senators elected by and from SCAP

In addition, the student members of some Committees are determined by a combination of the above procedures.

- LPAC 2 Student Senators (the regular and alternate Student Senator members from SLC) plus
 1 undergraduate and 1 graduate student selected by the Student Society
- SUAB 2 Student Senators and 1 Student Senator alternate plus
 1 student member and 1 student member alternate named by the Student Society
- SCUS 1 Student Senator plus
 1 undergraduate student named by the Student Society.

Currently there are 24 designated regular and alternate positions for Student Senators on committees of Senate and there are 19 regular and alternate positions for appointment by the Student Society. The remaining 11 positions are elected by students. There is nothing in the Rules of Senate that would prevent a Student Senator from seeking the appointment from the Student Society to one of those positions.

If the 54 Senate Committee memberships were to be restricted to Student Senators, each Student Senator would have to average approximately four regular and alternate committee memberships. My experience suggests that several positions would end up being vacant, thereby reducing the overall opportunity for student input and access to Senate Committees. Even with the current designated 24 Student Senator regular and alternate positions, each Student Senator would have an average of close to two Committee appointments.

What we have is a situation that has evolved over time, and I'm not convinced we have any compelling evidence to suggest that there should be a dramatic overhaul to this structure. In addition, the current membership designations allow for efficient and orderly replacement in the event of resignations and other vacancies.

If a change is considered advisable, there should be sufficient flexibility to allow for appointment to vacant positions in order to maintain student representation on committees. One suggestion would be to give Student Senators right of first access to any student position(s) on Senate Committees (with elections by Senate or Senate Committee if necessary) with remaining positions to be filled through request to the Student Society. I have several concerns about the adoption of this process. For instance, we would have to do a complete re-assessment of the terms of office for student positions. For example, the Student Senator position on the SCHD is for an unspecified term of office meaning that the Student Senator remains a member of the Committee so long as he/she is a member of Senate. If we go this alternate route and the position were to be filled by someone other than a Student Senator, the student named by the Student Society would hold the position so long as he/she remained a student, even if in the following year a Student Senator indicated an interest in the position.

In short, while probably not perfect, the current format is working reasonably well.