

MEMORANDUM

To: Barbara H. Eccles, Secretary of Senate
From: Judith Leggatt - Chair, Senate Organization Committee
Senate Meeting Date: March 19, 2018
Subject: Senate Organization Committee Report

The Senate Organization Committee met on February 21 and March 9, 2018 to finalize review of the Senate Bylaws. We are bringing a Notice of Motion to this Senate meeting, and will be asking Senate to vote on the revisions at the April meeting. The proposed bylaws are attached, both in a clean copy (for ease of reading) and in a track changes copy (to see what has changed). We respectfully request that Senators read over the bylaws in advance of the next meeting. We are asking that the new bylaws take effect on July 1st, with the change-over in Senate positions and committee membership.

We would also like to note that the current bylaws require a two-thirds majority vote, at a Senate meeting where **two thirds of Senators are present**, so it is important that we have excellent attendance at the April meeting in order for the bylaws to come to a vote.

We are recommending changes that streamline the bylaws; that incorporate policies into the bylaws; that eliminate redundancy; and that clarify ambiguities in wording. We are also updating to reflect the technological realities of current communications and distribution of Senate documents. Other changes bring the bylaws more in line with Roberts Rules of Order.

More substantive proposed changes to the bylaws include:

- Opening student positions on Senate to part time students
- Opening faculty positions on Senate to continuing lecturers, and to Contract Faculty who have taught 30 or more HCE and are continuing to teach at least 4HCE/year
- Allowing Senate Executive to meet immediately following a Regular Senate Meeting where quorum is not met.
- Ensuring that the Secretary of Senate is copied on meeting materials for all Senate Committees and may attend any Senate Committee meetings.
- Making the Board and O-AGC representatives on Senate recommended rather than appointed positions, which must be ratified by Senate.
- Requiring the Senate representative to the board to have tenure.
- Presentations that include the participation of guests are now included in the agenda during the regular business of Senate
- The alternate COU Academic Colleague will become an official observer of Senate, but will not longer have a vote on Senate when reporting in that capacity.

I would like to thank the members of the Senate Organization Committee for all their hard work on this process, especially Barbara Eccles and Yvonne Roussel, without whose expertise and clear thinking this process would have been exponentially more difficult.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Leggatt, Chair
Senate Organization Committee

Notice of Motion for April meeting:

MOVED that Senate approves the amended Senate Bylaws and rescinds the “Terms of Academic Colleague and Alternate” policy, effective July 1st, 2018.