

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
Report of the Senate Organization Committee

13 May 2009

Submitted by Dr. G. Colton (Chair), for Mr. G. Boyle, Dr. R. Delaney, Dr. R. Farrell, Dr. L. Hayes, Dr. R. Pulkki, Ms. K. Roche (Secretary) and Dr. N. Sayed.

A meeting of the Senate Organization Committee was held on May 8, 2009 in the Vice-President's Conference Room.

The Committee considered a request to revise the Terms of Reference for the Senate Research Ethics Board, as follows:

1) To make the NOSM representative on the REB a voting member (thereby removing the asterisk ** next to NOSM representative's position in the Committee's composition). Rationale: The NOSM representative had been erroneously listed as non-voting previously.

2) To create a seat on the REB for someone with legal knowledge. Rationale: In order to accommodate an increasing number of research proposals coming from NOSM – and the likelihood of clinical research or even clinical trial research in the future – the REB is taking steps to fulfill the membership requirements for a biomedical REB set out in the Tri-Council Policy Statement on research ethics, which stipulates that a biomedical REB must have “at least one member knowledgeable in the relevant law.”

These changes were approved by the Committee in principle, and ratified via e-mail vote upon receiving clarification from the Chair of the REB on the wording of the proposed changes.

The Committee also debated a recurring issue with respect to the requirements for quorum for a number of Senate committees (specifically, the stipulation in several committee Terms of Reference that “committee members whose positions are listed as ** shall not *typically* be included in the total when quorum is counted). The Committee felt that the word “typically” could make the requirements for quorum awkward, difficult, or even arbitrary to interpret and that, for the sake of clarity, the word “typically” might best be deleted. The Committee decided to contact the Senate Committees for whom this stipulation applies to solicit their input on the matter.

Dr. G. Colton
(on behalf of the Senate Organization Committee)