

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
Report of the Senate Organization Committee

30 November 2009

Submitted by Dr. G. Colton (Chair), for Dr. Q.L. Dang, Dr. R. Delaney, Dr. L. Hayes, Mr. R. Hewitt, Dr. S. Islam, Dr. J. O'Meara, and Ms. K. Roche (Secretary).

A meeting of the Senate Organization Committee was held on November 30, 2009 in the Vice-President's Conference Room.

The Committee considered a request from the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council to amend its Terms of Reference to include the Associate Vice-President (Academic), as recommended by the Regulations/Programs Committee. Dr. Philip Hicks and Dr. Moira McPherson, in turn, were invited to speak to this motion and each provided background information regarding this request. It was noted that due to the fact that the Associate Vice-President (Academic) is responsible for coordinating program reviews and that the new program review process will be governed by the quality assurance framework, this membership is important.

This request was unanimously approved as follows:

MOVED (Q.L. Dang/S.S. Islam) that the Associate Vice-President (Academic) be added as a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council, and that in the absence of the Vice-President (Academic), the Associate Vice-President (Academic) may vote.

The Senate Organization Committee reviewed further responses to a supplementary request from the Committee seeking input from all Senate Committee Chairs regarding the usage of the wording "shall not *typically* be included in the total when quorum is counted" (my italics) in the Terms of Reference of a number of committees. In the e-mail request sent to Senate Committee Chairs, the Senate Organization Committee questioned whether the word "typically" was necessary (or even problematic) and asked committee chairs to indicate whether they would be in favour of removing the word "typically" altogether.

All committees responding, with the exception of the Senate Executive Committee, were in favour of amending the wording as proposed. In the case of the Senate Executive Committee, it was noted that in certain instances it has been necessary to count Deans in quorum in order to conduct the business of setting the Senate agenda. Without quorum, the deadlines in the Senate By-laws could not be met for posting and distributing the agenda, and therefore, it might become necessary to cancel the Senate meeting. The Senate Organization Committee discussed ways to address the Senate Executive Committee's issue, which the Chair then brought forward to the Senate Executive Committee for discussion and feedback.

The following motion was then unanimously approved:

MOVED (R. Delaney/ Q.L. Dang) that, for clarity of interpretation, the word “typically” be removed from the Terms of Reference of Senate Standing Committees pertaining to the requirements for quorum (i.e. that “Committee members whose positions are listed as ** shall not *typically* be included in the total when quorum is counted.)

The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2010.

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