



MEMORANDUM

To: Barbara H. Eccles, Secretary of Senate
From: Mark Gallagher - Chair, Senate Organization Committee
Senate Meeting Date: May 11th, 2016
Subject: Senate Organization Report

The Senate Organization Committee (SOC) met on February 25th, 2016 to consider a number of items including:

1. Senate Budget Committee Terms of Reference

The committee discussed modifications to the Senate Budget Committee (SBC) terms of reference that were referred to the SOC at the March 21st, 2015 meeting of Senate. The committee decided to defer a decision pending further consultation with SBC.

2. Appointment of Official Observers on Senate

The Committee considered a potential amended list of official observers on Senate. SOC was in favour of the amended list with a suggestion that the list specify which standing sub-committee chairs will be official observers prior to being posted.

3. Appointment of Designates to Senate Committees

A general discussion took place regarding formally adding designates to the composition of Senate committees. It was pointed out that many of the recent changes to terms of reference that the SOC has been asked to consider involved adding designates (often as voting members). While acknowledging that this was entirely appropriate in many instances, some members were concerned by the recent trend. It was felt that in some cases the ability of a committee to function could be compromised if the primary decision maker from a unit was not present. The Chair was asked to express these concerns directly to Senate and ask that each committee in reviewing their terms of reference in future carefully consider whether or not to allow designates, and if they should be added as voting members.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Gallagher, Chair.