

## **Senate Executive Committee**

### **Senate Rules Review 2018: Preliminary Inventory of Suggestions**

Senate Executive has agreed that a review of the rules will be one of its priorities for the year. The current Rules state “it is required that “not less frequently than every three years an updated version of Senate’s Rules, Procedures and Guidelines shall be published online (Rule A, II, 2. a).” This stipulation occasions thorough reviews of rules, procedures and guidelines. The last such review culminated with a number of editorial and substantive changes approved by Senate in February 2016. The Committee will refer the request to the Nominations Sub-Committee, which is customarily tasked with developing recommendations on rules for the full Committee and Senate. Other suggestions are welcome from Senators at any time.”

The Chair has asked that a draft preliminary inventory be shared with Senators to determine if there are other aspects of Senate rules that should be in scope. The list below identifies suggestions and questions from the following sources:

- Direct requests made of the Committee
- Senate Executive commentaries on rules in March and June 2018
- Excerpts from Senate minutes
- Comments in the 2018 survey of Senators
- Other statements and communications

Some of the comments point to specific changes that may be instituted. Others provide context for the review and complementary initiatives that may promote understanding and build consensus around Senate’s rules.

**Suggested additions to, or comments about the proposed list, are requested from Senators by Friday, 30 November 2018.**

#### **Senator Roles, Conduct and Decorum**

- Strengthen rules on Senator conduct at meetings and when communicating as Senators (e.g. Listservs) and the decorum of non-Senators in attendance)
- Possible code of conduct for Senators
- Etiquette and consequence of breaking it
- Take into account that the proceedings may privilege certain voices
- Prevent intimidation
- Role of Senators
- More guidance on expectations of Senators
- Mandatory governance training
- Civil proceedings
- Do not stigmatize dissenters
- Insist that members are referred to as Senators
- Create rules to include signage, social media
- Create guide for Senators about role, proceedings including “how to register disapproval or disagreement in an appropriate way”

#### **Debate**

- Disallow references to labour issues

- Disallow “political” speech that does not relate to agenda items
- Limit or disallow discussion of contentious matters that may lead to vilification
- Impose time limits on items
- Specify that the Chair’s rulings must be complied with (e.g. Senators must not speak when the Chair directs them to cease or pause)
- Affirm role of the Chair
- Enforce collegiality and respect
- Permit Senators to indicate a desire to speak on a matter in advance via e-mail communications (lines at microphone are sometimes monopolized)
- Expand on the definition and procedure for addressing them
- Specify that the only points recognized involve order and privilege (a “point of information” is a question)

Strengthen language that speaking is not permitted when a vote is in progress

### **Meetings**

- Clarify purpose and scope of Inquiries and Communications
- Notice of communications should be given to confirm relevance
- Limit questions to a specified length
- Institute clear rules about questions, especially length and nature
- Limit time allocated to President’s items and request written report
- Clearer guidance concerning communications – who can give them, when and how Senators can respond to them
- Distinguish between asking the President a question and making a statement
- Re committee of the whole, add procedures to rules and consider rules change such as time limit on interventions in this mode; consider if this mode (which dates to a time when statutes were dealt with at three stages, the second of which was Committee of the Whole) still needed given its minor changes in conduct – Senators can speak more than once, no seconder for motion
- Allow direct reports from Faculties as agenda items for Senate meetings
- Clarify whether Senate Executive can be challenged if it exercises its authority to withhold an item and specify that there more than one options

### **Conduct of Proceedings**

- Reinforce that, during a challenge to the Chair, only the challenger (who moved the motion) and the Chair may speak
- Better define hortative motions
- Affirm a remark can be ruled out of order by the Chair if it is not relevant to the matter at hand
- Clarify there is no provision for waiving a rule (unlike some parliamentary bodies where unanimous consent can accomplish this for a limited time)

### **Membership**

- Allow Faculty of Education students to identify voting alternates
- Allow Glendon students to begin terms May 1, following spring elections rather than July 1
- Reinforce / enforce the Senate rule that students serve two-year terms