



## **Senate Operations Review Committee**

Meeting of January 29, 2009

### Notice of Motion

*Amendments to the Senate Rules of Procedures*

#### **Introduction**

A number of circumstances over the past few years prompted a review of the *Senate Rules of Procedures*, including Senator J. Welsh's concerns about nominating procedures which were raised at the May 21, 2008 Senate Meeting.

*Senate Rules of Procedures* specify that any amendments to the *Rules* require a Notice of Motion given at the previous meeting. SORC presents the proposed amendments for approval at the February 26, 2009 Senate Meeting

#### **Review of the Issues**



## Proposed Amendments to Senate Rules of Procedures

### Current

#### 16. Record of Voting

When a vote is taken in the Senate, any member may require that the numbers, or that the member's own vote, be recorded in the minutes.

### Proposed

#### III. Voting

##### 16a. ~~Record of Voting Rights~~

**All Senators, including Ex Officio members, have full voting rights. Voting rights are limited to those Senators present at the time of the vote. Proxy votes are not permissible. In the case of a tie, the Chair has a casting vote.**

##### 16b. Record of Voting

When a vote is taken in the Senate, any Senator may require that the numbers, or that the Senator's own vote, be reported in the Minutes. **A vote on a Motion will be taken by a show of hands at the meeting.**

##### 16c. Electronic Voting

**In exceptional circumstances where time is of the essence and there is no reasonable possibility of convening a meeting, electronic voting is permissible. The use of electronic voting is to be determined by the Senate Agenda Committee or when this is not possible by the Chair of the Senate.**

**In circumstances where electronic voting is necessary, the wording of the Motion and any background material shall be circulated to the Senate prior to the date scheduled for the vote. Normally, a period of no less than two working days will be provided for Senators to electronically post comments and/or questions about the Motion, with this electronic discussion accessible to all Senators.**

**Immediately following this period, Senators will be asked to vote on the Motion and their votes must be recorded with the Secretary of the Senate on or before a specific date. Voting will be on the Motion as presented. The result of the electronic vote shall be transmitted to the Senate and the number of votes shall be reported in the Minutes. Senators may request that their own vote be reported in the Minutes.**

### III. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

#### **18. Definition**

The Senate may at any time form itself into a committee of the whole body. The purpose of this procedure is to allow less formal discussion of a complex or controversial issue which, nevertheless, requires some action to be taken.

#### **19. Procedure**

**the matter has already been fully discussed in the committee of the whole. The recommendations will be voted on *en bloc*.**

## **32. Elections to Standing Committees**

(3) If additional nominations are not received, the Senate will elect the slate presented by the Nominating Committee at the same meeting. Those elected according to above procedures at the April or May meetings will take office on September 1 following.

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(4) When vacancies arise on Standing Committees outside of the regular period for election to Standing Committees, the Nominating Committee will be asked to nominate replacements as soon as possible. Action will be taken by the Senate at the same meeting at which the slate is presented, it being understood that provision will be made for further nominations from the floor of the Senate as long as nominees are present to indicate their willingness to take office if elected, or they have accepted the nomination in writing before hand. Such nominations must be supported by at least five senators. Voting will be done by means of a paper ballot.

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