



SORC REPORT ADDENDUM
Report to Senate, April 28, 2011

At the March 24th meeting of Senate, the Chair of SORC invited Senators to convey any lingering questions or concerns to the committee prior to the April 28th Senate meeting, at which time the Motion on the Functions of Senate is to be considered.

When SORC met on April 12, it responded to concerns and questions raised by the University Registrar, who was invited to attend the meeting. Consequently, an amendment is proposed to new Function #8, ensuring that Senate retains responsibility for various policy matters related to the work of the Registrar's Office. The amendment is added at the conclusion of new Function #8: *including but not limited to policies related to admissions, calendars, examinations, student financial aid, and annual enrolment planning.*"

SORC also considered the concerns identified in D. Mullan's response (posted on the [QUFA Faculty Blog](#)¹ to D. Kelly's legal opinion. As a result, "annual enrolment planning" was included in the amendment to new Function #8, as per above.

Regarding D. Mullan's concern about the removal of "heads of departments" (see New Function #13; old Function #12), SORC noted that this is now subsumed by the QU/QUFA Collective Agreement.

Also, it was noted by SORC that the Provost is required to report to Senate monthly regarding the budget of the University and QUPC activities. Therefore, Senators have regular opportunities to ask questions and seek further clarification on budgetary matters and planning issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Stairs,
Chair, SORC

Members:
L. Colgan
E. Cuham
D. Farewell
S. Goodspeed

¹ <http://senatefacultycaucus.wordpress.com/2011/04/02/dmullan-comments-on-march25-2011-draft-of-functions-of-senate-2-april-2011/#more178>

Senate Operations Review Committee

The reasons for identifying a “Central Function” are as follows:
SORC added a function related to the academic plan and the strategic research plan to recognize the importance of integrating these activities within the University environment (New #11);
SORC separated, for purposes of clarity, activities related to academic and non-academic discipline (Current #11) and the living and learning environment which promotes the well-being of students (New # 3 and #10);
SORC added a new function to make explicit Senate’s authority for “university-level” policies relating to the academic mission and academic services (New #8);
SORC also added a function related to equity and diversity, which is essential to any institutional environment (New #4);
SORC asked University Legal Counsel about the use of the term “approve” (in relation to New #5, 6 and 7) and concurred with the opinion received that it is a more accurate description of Senate’s role in these circumstances.

Recommendation

SORC recommends that Senate approve the “Proposed Functions of Senate”. Once approved, SORC will proceed to consult committees that serve the former Functions and to develop a committee structure appropriate to serve the revised Functions.

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PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF SENATE (PROPOSED REVISIONS) – March 15, 2011 and Amended April 12, 2011 (See bolded text)

Central Function:

1. Under the jurisdiction of the Royal Charter of 1841, Senate determines all matters of an academic character that affect the University as a whole, and is concerned with all matters that affect the general welfare of the University and its constituents. Senate shall serve as a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas among the members of the University community.

Academic Planning and Educational Environment Functions:

Senate will:

2. participate in strategic planning for the University.
3. assume a shared responsibility along with the Board of Trustees and the Administration of Queen's for a living and learning environment that promotes the well-being of students.
4. commit through policies and programs to an environment at the University that recognizes equity and diversity as being vital to, and in harmony with, its educational purposes and standards of excellence as an institution.

Legislative Functions:

Senate has the authority to ~~Tc -0.005 Tw 2.5aah, itn-0.00 313(Tc t)-3(o)13(Tc)-5ndcTc -4(a)-lnayanda1(l)6(y)15(s)9(~~

Draft: Functions of Senate: Current and Proposed (April 12, 2011)

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OF SENATE	PROPOSED FUNCTIONS OF SENATE
	Central Function
<p>Function 1 To determine all matters of an academic character which affect the University as a whole, and to be concerned with all matters which affect the welfare of the University.</p>	<p>1. Under the jurisdiction of the Royal Charter of 1841 Senate determines all matters of an academic character that affect the University as a whole, and is concerned with all matters that affect the general welfare of the University and its constituents. Senate shall serve as a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas among the members of the University community.</p>
	<p>Academic Planning and Educational Environment Functions: Senate will:</p>
<p>Function 2 To participate in planning the development of the University.</p>	<p>2. participate in the strategic planning of the University</p>
<p>Former Function 11</p>	<p>3. assume a shared responsibly along with the Board of Trustees and the Administration of Queen’s for a living and learning environment that promotes the well-being of students.</p>
<p>Proposed November 2010</p>	<p>4. commit through polices and programs to an environment at the University that recognizes equity and diversity as being vital to, and in harmony with, its educational purposes and standards of excellence as an institution.</p>
	<p>Legislative Functions: Senate has the authority to:</p>
<p>Function 3 To establish, subject to the ratification of the Board of Trustees, any faculty, school, institute, department-</p>	<p>5. approve {establish or close} any academic unit, centre or institute, subject to ratification b(t)>>BDC</p>

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OF SENATE	PROPOSED FUNCTIONS OF SENATE
<p>Function 5 On the recommendation of the respective Faculty Boards and Schools, to publish the University calendars.</p>	<p>Removed</p>
<p>Function 6 On the recommendation of the respective Faculty Boards and Schools, to conduct examinations, and to decide finally all matters relating thereto.</p>	<p>Removed</p>
<p>Function 7 To establish the terms of all fellowships, scholarships, medals, and prizes; and to award all fellowd9tdals, a</p>	

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OF SENATE	PROPOSED FUNCTIONS OF SENATE
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Function 11

~~To have responsibility for the well-being of students (see proposed function 3) and to have final responsibility for their discipline including the power to dismiss students for cause (reworded). The Alma Mater Society of Queen's University and the Society of Graduate and Professional Students share responsibility for, and have the right to promote, the well-being of their members. In the discharge of its disciplinary power, the Senate sha~~

