

Referred to SORC



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Memo

TO: Georgina Moore, Senate Secretary

FROM: Brenda Brouwer, Vice-Provost and Dean
School of Graduate Studies

DATE: August 12, 2010

RE: **Faculty Senators representing the School of Graduate Studies**

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I am writing to follow up on the number of graduate senators resulting from the revised, Senate-approved governance structure of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), and the representation at Senate of those graduate programs under the direct responsibility of the School of Graduate Studies, namely the Schools of Policy Studies and Urban and Regional Planning.

In June 2010 these matters were discussed by Gail MacAllister, Celia Russell and Monica Corbett. It was confirmed to Monica that the total number of graduate senators (currently, five) will not be changed. This is contrary to several different options raised at meetings of both the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) subcommittee that reviewed the SGS governance framework proposal, and the Senate Operations Review Committee.

Failure to increase the number of graduate senators is in contradiction to the stated objectives of the SCAD Subcommittee for the Review of the Governance Structures of the SGS, namely to accurately reflect the functions and responsibilities of the School within the broader University organizational structure. Under the former governance structure, the School of Graduate Studies had five representatives to Senate, one per Graduate Division. We now have eight Graduate Councils/Committees, yet, the Faculty-based councils collectively have five senator positions, one of which is to rotate through the eligible graduate faculty members from the Faculties of Law, Business and Education. In addition to the obvious operational challenges this will create for your office, more pointedly, faculty members in non-departmentalized faculties (Law, Business, and Education) will have unequal access to Senate representation and those in the Schools of Policy Studies and Urban and Regional Planning will have no representation.

The restructuring of the governance of graduate programs at Queen's has resulted in a viable framework that enables strong interaction and communication with faculties. The membership of several other SGS committees, such as the Academic Appeal Board and the Fellowship Committee, has been modified to allow for fair and appropriate representation from all Graduate Councils/Committees. It was anticipated that the graduate senator representation would be similarly modified.

The School of Graduate Studies recommends that:

a. The number of graduate senators be increased from five to eight to reflect the changes in governance structure from five Divisions to eight Graduate Councils/Committees.

and,

b. in the future, one of the proposed eight senators be identified, selected and approved by the authorized processes through the Graduate Committee for Planning and Policy Programs, from the graduate faculty members of the Schools of Policy Studies and Urban and Regional Planning.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Brouwer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brenda Brouwer, Ph.D.
Vice-Provost and Dean