

Motion regarding Senate Composition and the Guiding Principle October 24, 2011

Motion:

I move that the Senate Operations Review Committee (SORC) prepare for the November 2011 Senate meeting a proposal for approval by Senate recommending modifications to the current Composition of Senate such that the Composition of Senate be made consistent with Senate's "guiding principle" of "proportionate composition as directed by Senate in 1996," with the following proportions: that

- Faculty members **NEVER** be **less** than 54%;
- Ex-officio members **NEVER** be **more** than 19%;
- Student members **NEVER** be **less** than 23%
- Staff members **NEVER** be **less** than 4%

Rationale:

In its "[Interim Report on the Composition of Senate \(April 22, 2010\)](http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/agendasminutes/042210/SORCRpt.pdf)," (<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/agendasminutes/042210/SORCRpt.pdf>) SORC itself refers to the "guiding principle" of "proportionate composition as directed by Senate in 1996," and lists the following proportions: that

- Faculty members never be less than 54%;
- Ex-officio members never be more than 19%;
- Student members never be less than 23%
- Staff members never be less than 4%

Not only does this support the "guiding principle" of faculty majority with specific ratios: it also clearly distinguishes "Faculty," "Ex-officio," "Student," and "Staff" as four non-coincident membership categories. For the assignment of a distinct percentage to each complement, together with the fact that the four percentages add up to 100, indicates that each complement must be treated as distinct, without double-counting. On this model the elected faculty complement should remain at least 54%, whatever the separate *ex officio* complement might be composed of. The same should hold true for the elected staff and student complements.

Senator J. Morelli