

Resolution Re: Senator By-law Revisions

WHEREAS The current by-laws governing the reallocation of the SSMU's 11 Faculty specific Senate seats is currently unclear and proportionally unfair to our students.

WHEREAS The University Senate decided to reduce it's number of meetings in 2009.

WHEREAS The process of reallocating Senate seats must be fast, fair, and representative of student opinion.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Articles 4-7 of By-Law Book 1 be re-written to read:

“Part 3: Undergraduate Senators

Article 4 – Senate Elections

- 4.1. All elections for faculty representatives to Senate must take place according to the rules and procedures outlined in SSMU By-Law I.
- 4.2. Any faculties who have not produced a candidate for their allocated seat(s) by the end of the nomination period as described in By-Law I shall have this seat declared vacant.
- 4.3. Seats left vacant after the end of the nomination period will be reallocated to the Faculties in descending order according from the Faculty with the most students enrolled per Senator to the Faculty with the least, according to figures provided by the Registrar of McGill University. If a faculty has been allocated a second seat but does not have a second candidate, the seat shall be allocated to the next faculty with the highest enrollment per Senator.

Article 5 – Distribution of Senate Seats

- 5.1. The distribution of the thirteen (13) seats allocated to undergraduate students in the Senate of McGill University shall be as follows: one (1) seat for the President of SSMU, one (1) seat for the Vice President, University Affairs of SSMU, two (2) seats for the Faculty of Arts, and one (1) seat for each representative of the Faculties of Science, Engineering, Management, Education, Music, Law, Medicine, Dentistry, and Religious Studies.

Article 6 - Duties

- 6.1. The duties of the undergraduate Senator shall be
 - 6.1.1. To represent his or her faculty at Senate
 - 6.1.2. To inform his or her constituency of the issues before Senate

- 6.1.3. To gather the opinions of his or her constituency on matters before the Senate
- 6.1.4. To serve on at least one University Committee in accordance with Article 3
- 6.1.5. To attend Senate/Board Caucus meetings

Article 7 – Loss of Seat and Resignations

- 7.1. Senators who are absent from two (2) consecutive sessions of Senate or who have missed three (3) consecutive Senate-Board Caucus meetings shall have their seats deemed forfeited by a majority decision of Senate Board Caucus.
 - 7.1.1. Absences will be calculated and excused at the discretion of the VP University Affairs in consultation with Senate-Board Caucus.
- 7.2. The Vice President, University Affairs must report to Council vacant seats of Senate.
- 7.3. Following Council notification of the vacant seat, the faculty whose seat has been vacated will have a one-week nomination period. The faculty's student association shall publicize this event to its constituents.
- 7.4. Nominations are open to all undergraduate students enrolled in a degree program of the faculty that has lost its Senate seat.
- 7.5. Upon the closing of the nomination period, the faculty association shall select applications and forward them to the Senate/Board Caucus no later than two (2) days after the closing of the nomination period.
- 7.6. Should there be only one application, the candidate shall be deemed acclaimed.
- 7.7. If no candidate comes forth from the faculty, then the Vice President, University Affairs shall follow the formula established in 4.3.
- 7.8. Should there be several applications forwarded, the applicants shall be interviewed at the next Senate/Board Caucus meeting and one applicant shall be selected by a majority of the Senate/Board Caucus.
- 7.9. The Vice President, University Affairs shall inform Council of the decision of the Senate/Board Caucus. “

Supporting Data:

According to this new formula, the distribution of seats this year would have occurred in this order (this is very hypothetical and would never get this far in reality):

1. Science- 2 Senators- 2,888 students per Senator
2. Medicine- 2 Senators- 2,232.5 students per Senator
3. Arts- 3 Senators-1,362 students per Senator
4. Engineering- 2 Senators- 1939 students per Senator
5. Management- 2 Senators- 1479.5 students per Senator
6. Science- 3 Senators- 1444 students per Senator
7. Education- 2 Senators- 1321.5 students per Senator

This is based off of the following numbers from the 2009 Enrollment report:

| Faculty | Enrollment 2009 | Students Represented | # of Senators (as per By-laws) | Students per Senator |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Arts | 7,616 | 8174* | 2 | 4087 |
| Dentistry | 204 | 204 | 1 | 204 |
| Education | 2643 | 2643 | 1 | 2643 |
| Engineering | 3879 | 3879 | 1 | 3879 |
| Law | 809 | 809 | 1 | 809 |
| Medicine | 4465 | 4465 | 1 | 4465 |
| Management | 2959 | 2959 | 1 | 2959 |
| Music | 847 | 847 | 1 | 847 |
| Religious Studies | 114 | 114 | 1 | 114 |
| Science | 5218 | 5776* | 1 | 5776 |

*Includes Arts & Science students; 558.

As you can see, in this scenario, we are not in a situation where the seats are constantly going to Arts because they have the highest enrollment. Our allocation focuses even more on the students we are representing.