

Senate ad hoc Committee on Renewal Interim Report

January 22, 2010

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Process

In its July organizational meetings, the Committee determined that both a review of Senate documents (including The UWO Act (1982; 1988) and the 1996 review of ~~the~~ bylaws, and Senate committee terms of reference) and extensive consultations with the university community to determine the lived experience of collegial governance at Western were necessary in order to carry out the tasks assigned by Senate. The Committee reviewed the corresponding documents in August. A website on the Secretariat homepage was established in September to serve as a collection point for communications with the

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Progress to date

The Committee has received a wide range of opinions from a variety of different constituencies across the university. We are confident that we have achieved the breadth of consultation that Senate directed, and we are appreciative of the many comments and suggestions received to date. However, the Committee had hoped for a greater depth of participation in our consultations to complement the breadth we have achieved.

Over the course of our consultations, the Committee has heard a variety of reasons as to why some members of the university community have chosen not to participate in our process. Some of these include:

- Several constituencies had already been polled by their representatives prior to the Committee's town halls and meetings. In these cases, constituents may have been confident that their input would be adequately delivered by the representative(s).
- Some community members may fail to see how the Committee's activities are relevant to them. This impression may be due to a lack of understanding about Senate's collegial governance processes, or how Senate's activities might affect their day-to-day life. Education about and communications from Senate are two issues we will address in our final report.
- A sense of disenfranchisement and cynicism may have led some people to disengage from the collegial governance process. Disengagement is one of the most important challenges that our recommendations will address.

Nonetheless, during the course of our consultations, a number of themes and issues were raised repeatedly across a broad range of Faculties, campus units, and organizations. We feel confident that the "Themes

Themes

Following each consultation, the Committee debriefed to discuss predominant messages that had been expressed. Across all constituents and all forms of submission (written documents, town halls, meetings with leadership groups, ~~con-~~

Preparation of Senators and Representation on Senate:

- ” Clarification of the roles and responsibilities of Senators is needed, especially a clearer sense of Senators’ accountability and connection to their constituency.
- ” More robust training and mentoring of Senators is needed, particularly for student Senators who, at times, do not feel prepared to participate fully.
- ” Some Senators are not prepared for meetings and appear not to take the job seriously.
- ” The value of serving as a Senator needs to be recognized in the Senators’ home units and respected across the campus.
- ” Senators are largely strangers to one another, venues are needed for intimate communication.
- ” Multiple groups believe that they are not represented (or not adequately represented) in the Senate and feel that the current makeup of Senate needs to change.
- ” During our consultations, Senate voted to add discussion and follow-up questions to the current question period at Senate. Some people indicated that they

Appendix I

Committee Membership

At its June 2015 meeting, nine members were elected by the Senate to comprise this ad hoc committee

Betsy Skaraki-Doyle (chair)	faculty	Health Sciences
Emily Addison	undergraduate	Huron University College
Heather Bishop	PMA	Alumni Relations
Alison Hearn	faculty	FIMS
Lorelei Lingard	faculty	Schulich
Steve Lupker	faculty	Social Science
Sheila Macfie (vice chair)	faculty	Science
Mark McDayter	faculty	Arts & Humanities
Vacant, to be refilled in January	graduate student	
Irene Birrell (ex officio, non-voting)		

* The committee wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Professor Greg Kopp, Arjun Singh, and Tom McMurrough

Appendix II

Senate ad hoc Committee on Renewal Terms of Reference

Mission: To facilitate and collect the flow of information from all sectors and to make recommendations to the Senate, and through Senate to provide advice to the Board, with regard to moving the University of Western Ontario forward.

Membership: nine members chosen by Senate, four of whom will be faculty members (not including deans or associate/assistant deans), and two of whom will be student Senators (one graduate, one undergraduate).

Terms of reference:

1. To make recommendations that will establish more robust and transparent decision making practices and processes at Western
2. To receive comments and recommendations from across campus and from the affiliated university colleges and to determine ways forward that are beneficial to the whole community
3. The committee is given the following specific tasks:
 - (a) a full review of the state of governance at Western focusing on collegial governance and the role of Senate, including a review of the constitutional documents of Senate including the by-laws and regulations, the terms of reference of all committees, and a review of the development of agendas for Senate meetings;
 - (b) such other matters that arise during its investigations with respect to the enumerated tasks of the committee.

Timeline

The committee shall constitute itself as soon as possible, and report back to Senate with a preliminary report in January 2016 and a final report by the end of the academic year of 2015

Approved by Senate, June 5, 2015

by a joint Board/Senate committee stipulates, an emphasis on collegial decision making is consistent with “the University’s character as a public, collegial enterprise” (Final Report of Review of UWO Act, 1996).

The following is a brief description of our governing bodies:

- The Board has 28 members comprised largely of individuals external to the community, although nine of its members are faculty, staff or students from the university. It is responsible for “the government, conduct, management and control of the University and of its property and affairs.” (UWO Act)
- The Senate has 103 voting members, comprised of 77 elected faculty, staff, students and individuals from the general community.) Further, there are 23 ex officio members including: the President, who serves as Chair, all Vice Presidents and Deans, Principals of the Affiliates, etc. The University Secretary sits as a non-voting member on both bodies. The Act grants the Senate responsibility for academic policy and for specific academic matters, including admission standards, programs of study, qualifications for degrees, examinations, scholarships and convocation.
- Although Senate and the Board are differently constituted, with different areas of responsibility, they are intended to work together to govern the university. Interactions between the two bodies