

Proposal for a Change to the University Senate's Standing Committee Structure

Submitted by Senator Martha A. Cotter

Representing the Graduate School – New Brunswick

I would like to propose the following changes to the Senate's standing committees:

1. Changing the name of the Faculty Affairs and Personnel Committee to the Faculty and Staff Affairs and Personnel Committee, with concomitant additions to the standing charge of the Committee.
2. Addition of a new committee to be called the Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee. Those parts of the standing charge of the Faculty Affairs and Personnel Committee dealing with research policies would be transferred to this new committee.

There are a number of reasons for making this proposal at the present time.

- The recent addition of staff representatives to the Senate requires that the committee structure be modified to provide a venue for addressing staff issues and concerns. Extending the purview of the FAPC to deal with staff as well as faculty affairs and personnel policy matters, excluding those handled under collective bargaining, seems like an efficient way to consider staff issues within our committee structure.
- It has long seemed inappropriate that the principal shared governance body of this major research university does not have a committee specifically dealing with graduate and professional education and research. The recent appointment of a Senior Vice-President for Research and Graduate and Professional Education strongly supports the desirability of having one committee dealing with both graduate and professional education and research.
- The Graduate School – NB passed a resolution several years ago asking for the establishment of a Senate committee dealing with graduate and professional education. This request was rejected by University Structure and Governance at least partially on the grounds that the addition of another committee would mean that the number of committees needing Executive Committee liaisons would exceed the number of EC members. This is no longer an issue, given the recent expansion of the Executive Committee.
- At the time of the last discussion of the need for a committee dealing with graduate and professional education, it was argued that important issues dealing with graduate and professional education could be handled quite effectively within the present committee structure and wording concerning graduate students and graduate education was added to the standing charges of several committees. In practice, however, this has had little if any effect on the nearly exclusive focus of Senate committees on undergraduate education and student affairs.