

DECEMBER 9, 2016

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1R40, Arts and Humanities Building.

SENATORS: 71

A. Abuhussein R. Andersen A. Bachman A. Bhatt P. Bishop A. Bowlus J. Capone T. Carmichael A. Chakma A. Chant K. Cole R. Collins E. Comor M. Crossan C. Davidson J. Deakin C. Dean G. Dekaban P. Doyle N. Dyer-Witheford J. Garland C. Hardy J. Hatch E. Hegedues

- A. Hrymak Y. Huang M. Jadd C. Jones D. Jorgensen A. Katz M. Knott J. Knowles A. Kothari D. Laird R. MacDougall S. Macfie E. Macpherson L. McKivor K. Mequanint J. Michalski M. Milde L. Miller
- S. Mumm
- K. Myers
- P. Nesbitt-Larking
- V. Nielsen
- C. O'ConnorRLKothar67.3(n)]TJ 0 Tc 0 Tw 4.578 0 T7.31

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Secretary's note: Dr. Chakma addressed a comment received outside of Senate that some members of the community took issue with the religious nature of the greetings provided at the beginning of the October Senate meeting because Western is a secular institution. He noted that the invitation to have the Visiting Elder open the meeting was extended to show respect for the indigenous community and to recognize the importance of the Indigenous Strategic Plan process as a step towards trying to rectify the historical challenges they have faced. He added that having an Elder bring greetings or blessings is an important element of their culture and he did not believe the Elder's greeting diminished the secular character of Western. However, he acknowledged that others might disagree. He noted that this was a very special case and what was done was in the spirit of showing respect to the indigenous communities. It was a unique situation, not likely to be repeated.

S.16-252 Agenda for December 9 Senate Meeting

It was moved by N. Dyer-Witheford, seconded by H. Orbach-Miller,

That the agenda for the December 9 Senate meeting be re-ordered to allow consideration of the questions from the Organizing Equality Student Coalition as the first item of business.

S.16-254 Notice of Motion regarding Land Acknowledgement

It was moved by S. Macfie, seconded by A. Bhatt,

S.16-258a Open or Closed Committee Meetings

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by M. Strong,

That meetings of Senate's standing committees and subcommittees remain closed.

M. Milde, Chair of OAC, referred to the reasoning behind keeping meetings of Senate's standing committees and subcommittees closed contained in Exhibit III, Appendix 2, page 2. Each standing committee had debated the issue at length and concluded that their meetings should remain closed.

The Chairs of SCAPA, SCUP and Nominating were called upon to present their committee's rationale for having closed meetings:

T. Carmichael, Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee, said that full discussion of the nominees and their suitability for service on committees can only occur in a closed session. The Nominating

- b. Portions of the aforementioned committee's meetings that do not meet the criteria of section a) shall remain open.
- c. In the extraordinary instance that a portion of an aforementioned committee's meeting is closed, justification shall be given to Senate.

The Chair ruled points a, b, and c out of order because under Senate's rules, OAC's terms of reference include reviewing the role and operation of Standing Committees. Should it be determined that meetings were to be open, the appropriate process would be to have OAC develop the rules under which open meetings would be conducted and bring forward their recommendations to Senate for debate and final decision.

There was lengthy discussion of the Chair's ruling. Those who believed the detailed amendments should be permitted argued that the decision was overly bureaucratic, non-democratic, and symptomatic of the concerns raised about Senate's effectiveness in the past year and as reported to the ad hoc committee in the course of their campus-wide consultation. This was a dangerous ruling that implied that Senate could not take back authority it had divested to a committee. Surely Senate could act in exception to its own rules from time-to-time. There was also concern about the additional time that would be required for OAC to come back with guidelines for approval. That was not likely to happen until April at the earliest, at which point students, who had been among the leading proponents of the change, would be gone from campus.

Other Senators disagreed, arguing that established procedures should be followed and that governance changes should not be rushed through. Several iterations might be needed to get the process right. Important, and practical, moves are being made towards transparency, such as the pre-circulation of the Committee agenda pages, and the annotated reports that will include context

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the campus community. These consultations will seek to inform the campus community about the proposed transit routes and how they impact the campus and to provide an opportunity for