

**Purpose:** DECISION

---

**Subject:** **Modification to the composition of Senate**

---

**Prepared by:** Pascal Robichaud, University Secretary

---

**Prepared for:** **Senate**

---

**Date:** November 11, 2025

---

## ACTION

**That Senate approve the addition of seats for full-time faculty members to provide that Senate is composed of at least 50% of faculty members.**

## BACKGROUND

The University Act defines the composition of Senate<sup>1</sup>, prescribes “*that the faculty shall constitute not less than one-half of the total membership of Senate*” and that to this purpose “*there shall be elected from among, and by, all full-time faculty one or more additional members of the faculty as members of Senate*”<sup>2</sup>.

Under those provisions, Senate has created three “at large” seats under section 3.2<sup>3</sup> of the *Processes and Procedures of Senate*.

With the recent creation of a new Faculty of Medicine, and therefore the addition of a Dean, the addition of a Vice President People and Culture and the return of a stand-alone role of the Associate Vice President Students, there is need to review the composition of Senate to ensure that faculty make up at least half of Senate.

Following an analysis by SSNC of the current composition of Senate, the Committee concluded that, to be compliant with the Act, four seats for full-time faculty should be added to Senate. In order that the composition of Senate be made compliant without delay, the Committee recommends that four at-large seats be added with immediate effect and that these seats be part of the notice of election the Secretary of Senate is to publish by February 10, 2026, under section 5.2 of the *Processes and Procedures of Senate*.

SSNC also recommends the development of a working group to review the rules for the composition of Senate including items such as allocation of at-large seats, how to achieve diversity, and addressing backfill for leaves as examples. The group will be co-chaired by the University Secretary and the Vice-Chair of Senate, who will identify necessary expertise needed for the Committee. Additionally, we will ask Senate to elect two members to serve on the working group.

---

<sup>1</sup> See s. 22 (1) of the University Act [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/u-04-university\\_act.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/u-04-university_act.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Op. cit. paragraph 22 (2).

<sup>3</sup> See section 3.2 of the *Processes and Procedures of Senate* :

[https://files.upei.ca/policy/senate\\_processes\\_and\\_procedures\\_govsen\\_gnl0004.pdf](https://files.upei.ca/policy/senate_processes_and_procedures_govsen_gnl0004.pdf)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation 1

**That Senate approve a modification to section 3.2 of the *Processes and Procedures of Senate* adding a line that reads : *Four members at Large : Non designated, to be elected at large among all full-time faculty, such that the section would read:***

#### 3.2 Members at Large

Faculty Members at Large enumerated below are elected from among and by faculty to ensure members of the faculty shall constitute not less than one-half of the total membership of the

Senate:

Member at Large	Designated to the Faculty of Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research, and Applied Studies
Member at Large	Designated to the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering
Member at Large	Designated to the Library
<b>Four members at large</b>	<b>Non-designated, elected at large among all full-time faculty.</b>

### Recommendation 2

**That Senate elect two Senators to a working group of SSNC on a formula for the allocation of additional seats at Senate for full-time faculty.**