



VANCOUVER SENATE

MINUTES OF 18 MARCH 2020

DRAFT

Attendance

Present: J.M Holmes (Vice-Chair), C. Eaton (Acting Secretary), M. Aronson, J. Burnham, R. Boushel, L. Burr, G. Faulkner, B. Fisher, Forwell, J. Gilbert, C. Gilby, C. Jaeger, C. Krebs, M. Koehoorn, C. Marshall, J. Olson, S. Parker, S. Porter, L. Stothers, A. Szeri, R. Topping, R. Yada.

Regrets: TBC.

Call to Order

The Vice-Chair of Senate, Mr J. Maximillian Holmes, called the seventh regular meeting of the Senate to order at 6:02 pm.

Agenda

By general consent, the agenda was amended to move immediately to the report of the Agenda Committee.

Agenda Committee

At the Request of the Vice-Chair of Senate, the Acting Secretary to Senate, Mr Christopher Eaton, spoke on behalf of the Agenda Committee.

Mr Eaton noted that the Agenda Committee was proposing a suspension of Rule 10 and 24 of the *Rules and Procedures of Senate* and temporarily replace them by new language. The change to Rule would allow the Senate to meet via remote means, and the change Rule 24 would allow the Senate to consider matters more expediently via email and lower the threshold for approval by email from unanimous consent to 2/3rds in favour. Both were proposed as temporary measures that would expire on 31 December 2020; however, the Senate – meeting remotely – could later approved an extension or curtailment.

The Vice-Chair noted that to approve the proposed motion would require 2/3rds in favour.

Lawrence Burr
Charlotte Gilby

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That Rules 10 and 24 of the Rules and Procedures of Senate be suspended until 31 December 2020



and be replaced by the following amended text during that time:

*10: In cases where a member cannot attend meetings of Senate **or its committees** in person for academic or workplace accommodation reasons, the Chair **of Senate or the relevant committee** shall permit their remote attendance and voting through electronic means acceptable to the Secretary. Members so attending will be considered present for all purposes.*

24: In the event of a regularly-scheduled Senate meeting being cancelled, or if an extraordinary need for Senate approval exists between regularly scheduled meetings, the Agenda Committee may elect to have business ~~it considers to be routine but time sensitive to be~~ considered via email under the procedures set out in this section.

- a. The motion in question shall be sent via email by the Secretary to every Senator and should the Agenda Committee not consider it a matter needing to be considered in camera, shall be posted to a web site designated by the Secretary.*
- b. The email sent under Section 24 (a) shall specify the text of the motion to be considered for approval and include any necessary supporting*
- c. A matter sent out via email is approved if **no more than 1/3rd of the total voting membership of the Senate send objections** ~~objections are sent~~ to the Secretary within ~~seven (7) days~~ **72 hours** of the email being sent.*
- d. ~~If an objection is raised by any Senator~~ **sufficient objections are noted** under Section 24 (c) the matter is not approved and shall be considered at the next meeting of the Senate as a normal*



item of business but shall not be considered a motion to reconsider the question or a renewal of the motion

- e. A motion approved under this section shall be reported by the Secretary at the next meeting of Senate under Reports from the Registrar.*
- f. All Senators shall specify one or more email address(es) for the purposes of email consideration of matters and shall apprise the Secretary of any changes to those addresses in a timely manner.*
- g. A change to or suspension of the Rules and Procedures shall not be considered under this section.*

Senator Forwell asked by the suspension was time limited given that we did not know when the current situation would end.

Mr Eaton agreed that we did not know when the current situation would be resolved; however, the Agenda Committee wanted to ensure that this would need to be reconsidered by a set date as it set aside some of the normal democratic safeguards in Senate rules.

Mr Eaton confirmed for Senate Gilby that with the email approval option that 1/3rd of Senators would have to object rather than 2/3rds reply in favour.

Approved

Agenda

By general consent, all other matters of the agenda were postponed until the next regular or special meeting of the Senate.

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 pm.