

20201105 Senate Agenda Committee Minutes - Approved

Present: J. Max Holmes (Chair) Paul Harrison (Vice-Chair), Kin Lo Guy Faulkner, Claudia Krebs, John Gilbert, Chris Hakim, Sally Thorne, Carol Jaeger, Janine Benedet

Regrets: Joanne Fox,

Clerk: Chris Eaton

- Call to Order** Christopher Eaton, Clerk to the Senate, convened the Senate Agenda Committee at 9:01 am.
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair Chair** J. Max Holmes and Paul G. Harrison were acclaimed as elected chair and vice-chair respectively of the Senate Agenda Committee. Senator Holmes assumed the chair.
- Minutes of 9 October 2020** The Minutes of the meeting of 9 October 2020 were adopted as corrected. Correction; Senator Hakim was present.
- In Camera – 18 November 2020** N/A
- Senate Agenda**
- In Camera –** N/A
- Senate Business**
- Prioritization and Resources**
- Student Senator Concerns Regarding Mutual Respect and Understanding** Senator Holmes noted that for many years the student members of Senate had brought forward concerns about the environment and culture of Senate not being welcoming to students. He noted that they had raised concerns of lack of respect or of mistreatment, and while individual concerns had been addressed often, to them this seems more an issue of system inequity. He also noted that when students raised these concerns they were sometimes viewed as improper or disrespectful themselves when they were arguing for fair treatment. He asked how as senate committee chairs we could move forward to create a better and more inclusive environment.
- A member expressed concern for the issues raised by Senator Holmes and said that rules were often written by those in power and used to maintain power. They suggested reviewing our terms of references, policies, and mechanism to adjust power dynamics.
- Another member said that improving orientations could be way forward.
- Another member suggested that Committee chairs could do a better job, if supported, to have students be heard and feel heard in committee deliberations.

The Clerk said that improved training for chairs was in the works, noting that it didn't happen this summer due the pandemic.

Members discussed anti-racism and bias training. The Clerk confirmed that this was being worked in for the next month.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm