



Okanagan Senate

THE FIRST SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
OKANAGAN SENATE
FOR THE 2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR
WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST 2022
2:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgments – Dr Santa J. Ono** (information)

2. **Remarks from the Chair and Related Questions – Dr Santa J. Ono**

3. **Senate Agenda Committee – Dr Jan Cioe**

Amendments to the Rules and Procedures of Senate Related to Meeting Format
(approval) (docket page 2)

4. **Other Business**

Under the *Rules and Procedures of Senate*, a consideration of business other than that in
the call for the special meeting is not permitted.



To: Senate
From: Senate Agenda Committee
Re: Amendment to the Rules and Procedures of Senate Related to Meeting Format
Date: 17 August 2022

As senators will recall, the suspension of the *Rules and Procedures of Senate* to allow for remote attendance at full Senate meetings expires at the end of this month. The Senate Agenda Committee has considered possible changes to Senate meeting formats and thanks the many senators who have responded to surveys on their preferences. The Committee notes that a plurality of senators indicated a preference for a multi-access format for meetings, with senators able to attend either online or in-person at their preference for each meeting. The Committee also notes that a small number of senators indicated that they would not be able to attend, either at all or regularly, if in person attendance was required. Of the three options presented, “in-person only” was the least preferred by senators.

The Agenda Committee has resolved to recommend that the multi-access format be adopted. The Committee is aware that this will take some learning by the Senate and its staff be done as well as possible, and in particular, that the theatre used by the Senate prior to the COVID-19 pandemic is not optimal for such a format. To that end, the Clerk has been asked to find a new home for the Senate should the Senate agree to allow multi-access attendance at Senate. The Committee is also committed to reviewing the format both for January and at the end of this academic year to ensure the Senate meetings are functioning well. The Committee is also aware that the Senate staff will need to use new methods to concatenate speakers lists and voting in a multi-access format, and widespread network difficulties may require the Senate to recess or adjourn so as to not preference either the online or in person attendees.

The Committee would note that committees of Senate already have the ability to set their own formats and this proposal is only addressing meetings of the full Senate.

The Senate Agenda Committee is pleased to recommend that Senate resolve as follows:

That Rule 20 of the Rules and Procedures of Senate be amended with the following text in substitution:

“Members of the Senate may attend meetings of Senate in person or, via such electronic means acceptable to the Secretary; members so attending will be considered present for all purposes.”; and

That Rule 21 be struck and all subsequent and referential section numbers be renumbered accordingly.

NB: The current rule 20 prohibits online attendance, and rule 21 allows limited participation by the Chancellor and President via remote means.