

14 March 2011

To: Senate

From: Dr. Richard Anstee, Joint Faculties Representative (Faculty of Science) & Professor of Mathematics

Re: Status of Associate Deans as Faculty Representatives to Senate

When I first arrived on Senate, I was told by Stephen Toope about the independence of Senate from the administration and how valuable that independence was, in his view. I was also struck by the number of Associate Deans.

The recent collective agreement removes Associate Deans from the bargaining unit, in essence deeming them 'management'. Of course this line between management and non-management faculty is hard to define but the collective agreement, freely bargained between the Faculty Association and the Administration, has placed Associate Deans on the management side. It is my view that, in order to preserve the independence of Senate, we must now refrain from having Associate Deans serve as representatives of non-management faculty on Senate. Under the current membership structure that would mean no Associate Deans on Senate. I gather that currently 8 serve on Senate.

The situation is analogous to that on the Board of Governors where Nassif Ghoussoub and others have argued for independent representation.

In my brief reading of the Universities Act, I believe the definition of 'faculty' would include all those with a faculty position including Associate Deans, Deans, most Vice Presidents and Associate Vice Presidents etc and the President. This definition is true for the Board of Governors as well. On Senate we already have Deans as members and certain other management faculty are also represented. Thus having representatives of non-management faculty is all the more important.

There will be those who point out the fine service that Associate Deans provide on Senate and I would agree. But independent oversight is a higher priority. I would point out that at the nuts and bolts level such as Senate Admissions Committee, with which I am familiar, one will continue to have Associate Deans serve ex officio, providing their expertise and energy.

Richard Anstee, Joint Faculties Senator
Professor of Mathematics