

# Memorandum

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TO: Senate  
FROM: Mr. Stephen Strople, Secretary General  
SUBJECT: October 18 Senate Open Discussion Making Senate meetings more meaningful: Enhancing discussion and engagement  
DATE: October 10 2013  
DOCUMENT #: D13-17

ACTION REQUIRED:  INFORMATION  APPROVAL/DECISION

**ISSUE & EXPECTED OUTCOME:** Several Senators have expressed an interest in moving to a meeting format that would allow and encourage greater exchange of ideas and increase engagement at Senate meetings. The goal of this open discussion is to identify strategies for enabling more meaningful Senate meetings and mechanisms for acting on recommendations that may arise.

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:** The current structure of Senate meetings reflects several influences. The University's Calendar of Business, which is developed by the Secretary in consultation with multiple units across the University, outlines the items which will be brought forward to Senate in a given governance year. The Calendar of Business contains both routine matters which are brought forward to Senate each year such as annual reports as well as special initiatives to develop or revise policy and regulations. The Calendar of Business, in turn, is informed by section 6 of the Statutes which sets out the matters to be on the agenda.

One approach to encourage greater exchange of ideas has been to schedule an open discussion at some Senate meetings. An open discussion where Senate is able to discuss a topic of academic interest without having a pre-determined outcome or purpose. In recent years open discussions have been included on two or three agendas each year.

In response to a recent invitation to all Senators to submit topics for such discussion, the Secretariat received several submissions.

MOTION OR  
RESOLUTION  
FOR APPROVAL:

N/A

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PRIOR  
CONSULTATION:

N/A

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NEXT STEPS:

Establish a working group to prepare a report on mechanisms and identified during the discussion for consideration and implementation | Steering Committee.

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APPENDICES:

N/A

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