

Senate Question Period

30th April, 2013

Question from Senator Fachinger:

Members of the Feminist Caucus and other female faculty are concerned about the underrepresentation of women faculty on Senate committees and other University committees. What measures have been taken/will be taken (see the recommendations made in the Academic Plan) to ensure that representation on the Board of Trustees, on Senate, and on Senate and University committees will be more gender balanced and diversified in the future.

Principal's Response:

I was gratified to receive this question because the research that was provided by the Secretariat tells what I believe is a good news story. Regarding representation of female faculty on Senate and the standing committees of Senate for 2013/2014, the following is provided for Senate's information:

- Of the 30 elected faculty senators, 15 are female and 15 are male.
- Of the 26 faculty positions on Senate committees or other committees related to Senate membership, 13 are female elected faculty and 12 are male elected faculty.
- Ex-officio members are excluded as these are placed on committees by virtue of their appointment at the University.
- Of the 18 faculty vacancies identified on the April 2013 Nominating Report to Senate, 9 were filled by female faculty and 9 were filled by male faculty.

Review of a selection of University Committees over the last year listed on the Provost's website indicate that of a total membership of 167, there were 92 women and 75 men overall.

The Board of Trustees has only 10 members who are appointed by the Board itself. The current Board-appointed membership is made up of 5 men and 5 women with the Board Chair and two of five vice-chairs being women. The Board does not control the ex-officio members except in its approval of the Principal's appointment. University Council Trustees are elected by its membership and student, faculty and staff representatives are elected by their individual constituencies.