

**Queen's University**  
**Senate Committee on Academic Procedures**

**REMEMBRANCE DAY MOTION REFERRAL**

**February 2014**

**Background**

In September 2013, the Senate Committee on Academic Procedures (SCAP) received the following motion, as referred from Senate at its April 2013 meeting:

*That SCAP develop a possible plan or plans for consideration by Senate should Remembrance Day be established as a holiday, beginning in academic year 2016/17, on which the University would be closed. In carrying out this task SCAP should identify the pros and cons of the proposed plan or plans, and also the pros and cons of maintaining the status quo. SCAP should be prepared to present options in this regard to Senate no later than January 2014.*

*(Morelli/Fachinger)*

*Carried 13-64*

**Analysis and Discussion**

The motion was reviewed and discussed during SCAP's November 2013, December 2013, and January 2014 meetings and the major points from that discussion are outlined below.

The goal of the motion was to have SCAP consider the implications of closing the University for the entire day, as opposed to the current 1.0 hour class cancellation period to attend ceremonies. Other possibilities suggested include that SCAP consider the implications of cancelling classes for the day rather than closing the University due to collective agreement implications.

The University Secretariat provided research regarding practices in place at other academic institutions. It was noted that other academic institutions closing on Remembrance Day do so as it is a statutory holiday in the jurisdictions where they are located.

Concerns were expressed at the loss of a teaching day. Members were informed that the Faculty of Arts and Science has 59 teaching days, and advised SCAP that any further reduction would place academic programs in jeopardy, specifically those with external requirements for accredited study.

Dan Bradshaw, Associate Vice-Principal (Faculty Relations), was invited to speak to the Remembrance Day motion referral in light of the Queen's QUFA Collective Agreement and the Queen's-PSAC Local 901 Unit 1 Collective Agreement. Based on a review of the Statutory Holiday language, Dan Bradshaw concluded that if the University was closed on Remembrance Day, then it would be treated as a statutory holiday.

Kate Johnson, the University Chaplain, was invited to discuss attendance by Queen's students to the Remembrance Day ceremonies, and the implications of full day class cancellations or University closure. Kate Johnson was impressed with the overwhelming attendance by students, faculty, staff and the community for the Remembrance Day ceremony in Grant Hall. While this was her first ceremony, her predecessor indicated that historically the ceremony has served the community very well. Her observation as both the University Chaplain and a military wife is that people will not attend a Remembrance Day ceremony if it is not close or convenient to where they are. She further indicated that resuming activity (e.g. class, work) after attending a celebration is beneficial following an emotional event.

The committee discussed the implications to instructional hours, the Queen's Collective Agreements, and attendance to Remembrance Day ceremonies based on the input received.

### **Conclusion**

At its meeting on January 8, 2014 the Senate Committee on Academic Procedures agreed and voted unanimously, based on its analysis and discussion, that SCAP recommend to Senate that the University maintain the status quo on Remembrance Day.

### **Membership**

J. Metcalfe, University Registrar

A. Alvi, Computing PhD '14

L. Burlock, Mathematics/Physics B.A. '14

H. Everson, Faculty of Arts and Science

J. Morelli, Department of Physics, Engineering Physics, and Astronomy

D. Tripp, Psychology, (Chair)

T. Ferguson, Office of the University Registrar (Secretary)