

Senate and Role of Senators

About Senate

Governance at Carleton is a shared responsibility in which Senate is the highest academic body and the Board of Governors is the highest corporate body. As the academic authority on campus, the Senate makes decisions of significant importance to students and faculty. Regular work of the Senate includes awarding degrees and scholarships, approving new programs and revised curricula, and establishing regulations concerning students' academic work.

Composition

Senate is comprised of up to 86 members representing the Carleton community:

- 40 faculty members
- 2 contract instructors
- 10 undergraduate students
- 3 graduate students
- 23 ex officio members
- 4 members of the Board of Governors
- Up to 4 special appointments, including the alumni representative and academic colleague.

An appointed faculty member serves as Clerk of Senate, a position that manages the affairs of Senate with the support of the University Secretariat. The university's President and Vice-Chancellor serves as Chair of Senate.

Senator's Role

- Represent the interests of the university as a whole.
- Acts in good faith to uphold collegiality and principles of fairness.
- Maintains confidentiality for issues raised and discussed in closed sessions.
- Understands and respects the scope of the roles and responsibilities of the Senate, and how these relate to the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Governors and administration.
- Reviews all materials in advance of Senate meetings and is prepared for thoughtful and engaged discussions and informed decision making.
- Attends all meetings of Senate and sends regrets if unable to attend. Minimum attendance standards apply in order to retain Senate membership.
- Serves on Senate standing committees as time permits.

Meetings

Senate usually meets once a month during the academic year, generally on the last Friday of the month from 2 – 4 pm.

Committees

Senate has 10 standing committees and one appeals board to help exercise its powers. Senators are encouraged to explore opportunities to serve on standing committees while on Senate. Two elected members of Senate also serve on the Board of Governors.

- Senate Executive Committee
- Senate Committee on Curriculum, Admissions and Studies Policy
- Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee
- Senate Academic Governance Committee
- Senate Library Committee
- Senate Committee on Student Awards
- Senate Honorary Degrees Committee
- Senate Review Committee
- Senate Committee on Medals & Prizes
- Senate Appeals Board