

FALL SENATE 2014 REPORT - NOVEMBER 3, 2014

Submitted by Judy Bowden, Senator 1

There were two motions passed at the Spring Senate which significantly changed the order of business at this Fall Senate.

Motions from the Districts will now be dealt with as a timed item immediately following lunch on the Tuesday and for this Senate an Informal Consideration Session was placed on the Agenda following the afternoon break. As these were timed items it meant that regardless of where we were in the Agenda these items would take precedence and consequently Standing Committee reports were dealt with in a "Hope you have read it - do you have any questions?" format.

The President reported briefly on meetings with the government regarding our interests as they relate to retired teachers, the possible outcome of Government/Active Affiliate negotiations and the impact on RTO/ERO's access to retiring teachers. He also spoke on the Ad Hoc Committee Reviewing Travel Expense Guidelines and TICO with a view of what was to come later on the Agenda. Mention was also made of the Executive Director's impending retirement in July 2015, and of the RTO/ERO Goals and Priorities which would be reported on by appropriate personnel later in the Agenda.

The Executive Director reported that three new staff had been hired - a new receptionist, Francine Viau, a new member of the Health and Benefits Service team, Eliza Ives and a new IT Manager, Charles Tabone. There are plans to hire one more staff member in 2015. He indicated a couple of directions in which this hiring might go. He also expressed concern regarding the limited space for physical growth at 18 Sadina.

In her report on the **RTO/ERO Foundation, Chair of the RTO/ERO Foundation Board, Valerie Mah,** introduced the new Director of Advancement and Fundraising, Yolanda Bronstein. She announced that the new position of Chair in Geriatric Medicine at the U of T would be filled sometime in 2015. She spoke about the survey that has been sent out to donors and a random sampling of members seeking input on future direction. The Foundation is also seeking two members at large to join the Foundation Board of Directors.

The report of the Provincial Executive listed their significant achievements as:

- the delivery of successful workshops for District Presidents, District/Unit Health Representatives, District Communications Representatives and District Member Services Representatives
- the introduction of Elder Care Select
- a more dynamic marketing strategy at the RPW's
- funding for the establishment of a Chair in Geriatric Medicine at the U of T

Motions referred to the PE for their consideration were dealt with as follows:

- they do not believe that voting by the members of the PE and the two members at large who sit on the Board of Directors of the Foundation on issues that arise at Senate related to Foundation is not a conflict of interest
- the motion asking that the PE lobby the government to remedy inadequacies that presently exist in health care and that public health care is protected was referred to the PAC Committee.

The President further reported on the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee Reviewing Travel Expenses. He highlighted that the motion requesting that should a member choose to drive that a cap of \$500.00 be placed on travel by car was not supported. You were provided with the report sent to Jim Sparrow at the September Executive Meeting. The President spent more time praising the process than on the actual content of the Committee findings.

Reference was also made to reports of the Executive Committees which would follow elsewhere in the Agenda.

These Committees reported as follows:

Nominating Committee

- presented a chart outlining the makeup of the Provincial Committees and the criteria by which new members are selected; the new appointments take effect on November 1, 2014
- they also outlined the procedure for the election of the PE which would take place during this Senate; they too take Office on November 1, 2014

Marketing Committee

- indicated the success of the new online registration for RPW's, the \$20.00 Tim Horton's card for each prospective member in attendance and a draw for an I-Pad Mini at each RPW
- indicated the reason for moving to this format had to do with gaining access to potential retirees and ensuring that it is done so within the Federal Government's Confidentiality Legislation
- some Districts are very much in favour of the new procedures - others are not but there appears to be little "wiggle room" for change at this time.

Succession Planning Committee

- the search for the new ED continues; due to the change in timeline the position will be advertised again during this Fall
- the new Executive Director Designate will start in the Spring 2015 - three months prior to the retirement of our current ED in July 2015

Constitution Committee

- reviewed the District Constitutions that were in line under the 5 year rotation
- reviewed Resolutions passed at the annual 2013 Fall Senate and Spring Senate 2014
- reviewed matters that would be coming before this Annual Fall Senate 2014
- helped prepare the agenda for this Senate
- at the request by motion at the Spring 2014 Senate studied/compared Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure with Roberts Rules of Order; in so doing they finished unanimously in favour of retaining Sturgis for RTO/ERO; they will however be moving to the latest edition

District Motions

District 4

- motion seeking to increase District Grants to 30% - LOST
- motion seeking to minimum annual grant to Districts be \$11,307.00 - THROWN OUT

District 19

- motion seeking to remove the vote at Senate from Standing Committee Chairs - LOST

5 District Consortium - 4, 16, 18, 22, 38

- both motions seeking to have information regarding motions dealing with Bylaws 7&8 (Reserve Funds and Health Premiums Stabilization Fund) out to District President and Senators 60 days prior to Senate and stipulating enhanced majority votes - CARRIED

District 7

- motion seeking to have the allowances for expenses be those delineated by Senate did not receive a 66.66%

majority vote - LOST

-motion seeking to give Senate the authority to amend the guidelines - CARRIED

-motion seeking to cap mileage for travel by car - LOST

District 20

-motion seeking to establish a committee to investigate and report to the Spring Senate on the possible creation of Provincial benefit plans by Teacher Affiliates for their members and all related subsequent motions were withdrawn and put as a NOTICE OF MOTION FOR THE SPRING SENATE

District 34

-motion seeking to have RTO/ERO recognize Districts as not for profit organizations and thereby exempt from TICO regulations in accordance with Regulation 26/05 of the Ontario Travel Industry Act 2002 - RULED OUT OF ORDER

District 31

-motion seeking to have RTO/ERO lobby the Provincial Government to amend the TICO legislation by adding an exemption for Retired Persons Organizations - LOST

The motions especially those from District 19, the 5 District Consortium, District 7 and those dealing with TICO sparked a great deal of debate. Issues related to the series of motions put forth and later established as Notice of Motions for the Spring Senate were the topic of the Informal Consideration Session. Questions were asked and ideas exchanged. In the end the PE assured the Senate that they were monitoring the situation very closely and they were actively engaged where appropriate. However, in the end the need for confidentiality was stressed and answers about regarding past and future directions were really not forthcoming. The nature of the debate on this issue and on District motions led some Senators to believe that the discussion had taken a somewhat 'Us versus Them' direction and have asked for a similar session in the Spring to discuss this issue.

For those wishing to read the Reports from the Standing Committees, ACER-CART and the OTTP Adjudication Committee I can make those available to you.

The Provincial Executive for the coming year is:

Past President - Norbert Boudreau

President - June Szeman

1st Vice - Martin Higgs

2nd Vice - Martha Foster

Executive Member - Dave Kendall

Executive Member - Mark Tinkess

The 2015 Budget was ratified with little discussion.

A Personal Comment - I learned a lot about Parliamentary Procedures, especially Out of Order Motions, Informal Consideration session and the various majority rules. I also spent a lot of time with the Provincial Constitution. Result - a whole new respect for the work done by our Provincial Constitution Committee. I was also fortunate to work with the Senators from District 20 and the 5 District Consortium. I can't stress enough the value of this type of collaboration among Districts.