

RATIONALE FOR SENATE COUNCIL OPPOSITION TO RULES COMMITTEE
PROPOSAL TO LIMIT MEMBERSHIP ON THE SENATE COUNCIL TO NO MORE THAN
TWO PERSONS FROM A COLLEGE

The proposal seems to be based upon the premise that colleges should be proportionally represented in the Senate Council. In the past, it has not been the tradition that members of the Senate elect Council members in a representational capacity. Instead, the Senators have elected their colleagues to the Council as individuals – persons they know to be active in Senate and university affairs, whose judgment they trust, and who are willing to put the time and energy into Council service. Senate Council members do not think of themselves as being a representative from Medicine, Education, Arts & Sciences, etc., but as faculty leaders who are acting in the best interest of the university as a whole. The Senate Council believes this tradition should be preserved.

Moreover, only the two largest colleges (Arts & Sciences and Medicine) have had more than two Senators as voting members of the Council at any given time since 1983. Arts & Sciences has held 27% of the faculty Senate seats over that time period while 31% of the Senate Council have been A & S Senators – hardly a disproportionate representation. Medicine has had 13% of the Senate membership and 15% of the Senate Council members – again, hardly a disproportionate share of the Council. The only function this proposal would have in practice is to ensure that A & S will always have a smaller percentage of members of the Council ($2/9\text{ths} = 22\%$) than it has in the Senate (27%). The Senate Council can see no reason to discriminate against Arts & Sciences Senators in this manner and urges defeat of this proposal.