

University of Windsor
Senate Governance Committee

1.0: **Revisions to Bylaw 31**

Item for: **Approval**

Forwarded by: **Bylaw Review Committee**

MOTION: That the proposed revisions to Bylaw 31 be approved.

Proposed Revisions

[revisions are in bold and strikethrough]

Bylaw 31:

6.4 A quorum of the Discipline Appeal Committee ~~shall be its full membership participating in person, with the exception of the entering of the plea and the setting of additional dates (if these occur separately) where a quorum of the Committee~~ shall be its full membership attending by any means that allows all members and parties to participate, **the determination of which shall be made by the Chair.**

Rationale:

- This change would provide flexibility regarding holding virtual hearings, which is more equitable and fair as it can provide for more timely hearings and resolution of matters, given that members can connect from wherever they may be and students do not have to request delays to hearings because they returned home prior to receiving notice of the misconduct matter.
- In discussion with the Chair of the Discipline Appeal Committee (DAC), who has served for several years and conducted both in-person and online hearings during the pandemic, virtual hearings worked well and did not disadvantage any of the parties in terms of being able to present and defend their cases.
- The Chair of the DAC would determine the hearing format, based on the seriousness or complexity of the matters.
- Since the pandemic, courts have continued to hold virtual hearings where appropriate, as they improve access and help mitigate delays in case resolution.