



Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #582 (2010-11)

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010, 3:00 PM

DR. CHARLES A. SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Susan Sydor (Chair), Professor James Mandigo (Vice-Chair), Dean Fiona Blaikie, Dr. Ian Brindle, Interim Dean Rick Cheel, Ms. Barb Davis, Dean Thomas Dunk, Ms. Margaret Grove, Dean Douglas Kneale, Mr. Rudi Kroeker, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Interim Dean Joanne MacLean, Dean Marilyn Rose

Professors Tansu Barker, Maureen Connolly, June Corman, Christine Daigle, Nancy DeCourville, Tamara El-Hoss, Sandra Felton, Nancy Francis, Nota Klentrou, Maureen Lux, John Lye, Diane Mack, Ingrid Makus, Carol Merriam, Bozidar Mitrovic, Merijean Morrissey, Roberto Nickel, Frances Owen, Michael Plyley, Steven Renzetti, Stan Sadava, Cristina Santos, Larry Savage, Astride Silis, John Sivell, David Vivian, Deborah Yeager-Woodhouse, Paul Zelisko, Deborah Zinni

Mr. Sebastian Prins, Mr. Luke Speers

Ms. Betty-Lou Souter

Mr. Mike Farrell, Secretary, Ms. Margaret Thompson, Associate Secretary

ALSO

PRESENT: Mr. Patrick Beard

REGRETS: Professor Tony DiPetta, Dr. Greg Finn, Mr. Ned Goodman, Mr. Daud Grewal, Dean Philip Kitchen, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Mr. Chris Lindley, Ms. Kim Meade, Mr. Steven Nicholls, Mr. Edward Nkyi, Mr. Kevin Smith, Professor Mark Spencer, Mr. Denis Ursov, Professor Michelle Webber, Ms. Carly White, Dr. Thomas Winger, Professor Barry Wright, Dr. Philip Wright, Ms. Helen Young

Professor Sydor welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 581st meeting of Senate held on September 22, 2010 had been posted

with the meeting materials.

MOVED (Merriam/Zelisko)

THAT the minutes of the 581st meeting of Senate held on September 22, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes - None

3. Communications - None

4. Report of the Chair

[The Highlights for Senate 582 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sydor reported that a special meeting of Senate would be held on Wednesday, November 24, 2010 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Sankey Chamber to discuss the draft Brock University Strategic Plan.

The Chair presented the Highlights for Senate 582 which had been posted with the meeting materials.

5. Report of the President and Vice-Chancellor

[The President's Report to Senate dated October 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Dr. Lightstone referred members to his written Report which contained information regarding the emerging provincial policy environment and the University's draft strategic plan.

6. Report of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic

[The Report of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic to Senate had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sydor referred members to the Report of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic noting that Dr. Knuttila was away on University business.

7. Report of the Academic Colleague – COU

[The Report of the Academic Colleague to Senate dated October 7, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials together with the following presentations to the Academic Colleagues: a) *Online Courses*, b) *Casualization of Academic Labour* and c) *Academic Transformation: The Forces Reshaping Higher Education in Ontario – Strategic Choices for the Future of Ontario's Universities*.]

Dean Rose referred members to the Report of the Academic Colleague. A comprehensive discussion ensued regarding the Ontario government's approach to differentiation in the university sector, the potential impact to graduate studies and research support at Brock, and

the development of the University's differentiation strategy in relation to strategic planning.

Dean Rose noted that following the next meeting of the Academic Colleagues, further information would be provided to Senate.

8. Report of the Actions of the Board of Trustees

[A Brief of the Board meeting held September 30, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

The Report of the Actions of the Board of Trustees had been posted for the information of Senate.

9. Unfinished Business from the Last Meeting - None

10. Approval of Graduands

[A Report from the Registrar dated October 4, 2010, together with a summary of the number of undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates to be conferred during Fall 2010 Convocation had been posted with the meeting materials.]

The Chair referred members to the Report from the Registrar.

MOVED (Francis/Corman)

THAT the Fall Convocation 2010 Degrees be approved as outlined in the Report.

CARRIED

Professor Sydor encouraged Senators to attend Fall Convocation on October 16, 2010.

For the information of Senate, Ms. Davis reported that the 2011 Fall Convocation date had been changed to October 22 from October 15 as staff would be attending the Ontario Universities Fair the weekend of October 14-16, 2011.

11. Reports of Standing Committees

11.1 Graduate Studies Committee

[The Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated September 27, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Klentrou presented the Report of the Graduate Studies Committee.

a) Change in Degree Requirements – PhD in Physics

MOVED (Klentrou/Brindle)

THAT Senate approve the changes/clarification in degree requirements for the PhD in Physics as outlined in the Report.

CARRIED

11.2 Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee

[The Report of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee dated October 13, 2010, together with Appendix 1: Memorandum from the Admissions Director to the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee dated September 23, 2010, had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Francis presented the Report of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee.

a) Amendment to FHB III: Academic Regulations, Proof of Proficiency in English

MOVED (Francis/Lye)

THAT Senate accept the amendment to FHB III: 2.5, Proof of Proficiency in English (A) 4) so that the international English Language Testing System (IELTS) minimum test score required for entry to undergraduate studies be changed to 6.5 or greater (from 7.0), with no band below 6.0 (from 6.5).

CARRIED

MOVED (Francis/MacLean)

THAT Senate accept the amendment to FHB III: 2.5, Proof of Proficiency in English (A) 4), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE) with a minimum score of 58 as proof of English proficiency for entry to undergraduate studies.

A discussion ensued regarding challenges in the classroom that are associated with a lack of proficiency in the English language. It was emphasized that there is a need for the University to ensure that proficiency standards are set at an appropriate score level and are being met and that support systems are in place for both students and instructors who may require additional training in the English language.

CARRIED

MOVED (Francis/Lye)

THAT Senate accept the addition to FHB III: 2.5 Proof of Proficiency in English (B) 6) the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE) with a minimum score of 68 as proof of English proficiency for entry to Teacher Education (Consecutive).

A brief discussion ensued. It was suggested that in light of the issues raised related to levels of proficiency in English, more research was required to determine strategies to better meet the needs of both students and instructors.

CARRIED

11.3 Governance Committee

[The Report of the Governance Committee dated October 13, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sadava presented the Report of the Governance Committee.

a) Senate Committee Membership Structure

Professor Sadava reviewed the rationale for the proposed recommendation as outlined in the Report.

MOVED (Sadava/Felton)

THAT Faculty Handbook II: 9.5 to 9.12 be amended with respect to the composition of Senate Committees as follows:

- a) **two Full-time Teaching Staff or Professional Librarian members of Senate, one of whom shall serve as Chair and one as Vice-Chair;**
- b) **a minimum of ~~four~~ two additional Full-time Teaching Staff or Professional Librarian members, such that Full-time Teaching Staff or Professional Librarian members of Senate comprise the majority of the Committee, with members-at-large as necessary to ensure that each Faculty is represented.**

A discussion ensued regarding the implications of the proposed amendments. In an effort to ensure that Full-time Teaching Staff or Professional Librarians comprise the majority of Senate Committees, the following amended motion was presented:

MOVED (Savage/Sivell)

THAT Faculty Handbook II: 9.5 to 9.12 be amended with respect to the composition of Senate Committees as follows:

- a) **two Full-time Teaching Staff or Professional Librarian members of Senate, one of whom shall serve as Chair and one as Vice-Chair;**
- b) **a minimum of ~~four~~ two additional Full-time Teaching Staff or Professional Librarian members, such that Full-time Teaching Staff or Professional Librarians members of Senate comprise the majority of the Committee, with members-at-large as necessary to ensure that each Faculty is represented.**

QUESTION on the motion as amended

CARRIED

b) For the Information of Senate – Review of the draft Brock University Strategic Plan

The Provost and Vice-President, Academic had consulted with the Governance Committee

on the draft Brock University Strategic Plan. A meeting of the Governance Committee with Senate Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs would be convened on November 3 to further discuss the draft document and to receive feedback from Senate Committees.

c) For the Information of Senate – Role of the Immediate Past Chair of Senate

As noted in the Report, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Senate has invited the Immediate Past Chair of Senate to work with them in an informal advisory capacity.

d) For the Information of Senate – Review of the Faculty Handbook

The Governance Committee requested that, over the coming year, each Senate Committee review its terms of reference and sections of the Faculty Handbook for which they have responsibility and forward any proposed amendments to the Governance Committee.

11.4 Undergraduate Program Committee

[The Report of the Undergraduate Program Committee dated October 13, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Connolly presented the Report which contained changes to the Undergraduate Course Bank for the information of Senate. In response to a question, it was noted that additions/deletions/changes to the Course Bank did not require the approval of Senate.

11.5 Budget Advisory Committee

[The Report of the Budget Advisory Committee dated October 5, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Vivian presented the Report of the Budget Advisory Committee for the information of Senate.

11.6 Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee

[The Report of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee dated October 5, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Vivian presented the Report of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee for the information of Senate.

12. Reports of Special Committees

12.1 Academic Review Committee

[The Report of the Academic Review Committee dated October 5, 2010, together with Appendix A: ARC Agenda and Appendix B: Academic Reviews (Eight-Year Cycle, Integrated) had been posted with the meeting materials.]

The Chair referred members to the Report of the Academic Review Committee. In the absence of Dr. Knuttila, Mr. Beard responded to questions and received comments and feedback from Senators.

13. Other Business

13.1 Student Awards

[The Report of the Manager, Student Awards dated September 29, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

The Report which contained the names of the recipients of the Governor General's Silver Medals and of the Spirit of Brock Medallists to be awarded during the 2010 Fall Convocation ceremony had been distributed for the information of Senate.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.