



Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #2 (2010-11)

**SENATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010, 3:30 PM

13<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR BOARD ROOM, SCHMON TOWER

**PRESENT:** Professor David Vivian (Chair), Dean Fiona Blaikie, Professor Babak Farzad, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Interim Dean Joanne MacLean, Professor Dan Malleck, Mr. Sebastian Prins, Mr. Denis Ursov, Ms. Helen Young

Dr. Jack Miller, Mr. Steven Pillar, Mr. Tom Saint-Ivany, Mr. Scott Walker, Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

**REGRETS:** Professor Alexandre Amprimoz, Professor Donald Brown, Professor Marilyn Cottrell, Professor Tony DiPetta, Professor Kelly Lockwood, Professor James Mandigo, Professor Felipe Ruan, Ms. Betty-Lou Souter, Dr. Philip Wright

**1. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of Meeting #1 held on September 29, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.

**MOVED** (Blaikie/MacLean)

**THAT the minutes of Meeting #1 (2010-11) held on September 29, 2010 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes - None**

**3. Report of the Chair - None**

**4. Review of the draft Brock University Strategic Plan**

[The draft Brock University Strategic Plan dated September 23, 2010 had been previously distributed to members. Comments on the draft plan from Professor Vivian had been distributed electronically to members. The Brock University Integrated Plan was distributed to members during the meeting.]

Professor Vivian noted that in keeping with the motion passed by Senate on September 22, 2010, the draft Brock University Strategic Plan had been forwarded to the Chair of Senate from the Provost and Vice-President, Academic and then distributed to Senate Committee Chairs for discussion at the Committee level. The draft plan was circulated to members of the Budget Advisory Committee with a request that comments be forwarded to the Committee Secretary. Professor Vivian reported that no submissions, other than his own comments, had been received.

Dr. Knuttila distributed copies of the “Brock University Integrated Plan” to members and provided an overview of the structure of the multi-level integrated plan. He then expanded on the changes being made to the draft Brock University Strategic Plan dated September 23, 2010. In response to a question from Dr. Knuttila, members suggested that the integrated plan and the restructured draft Strategic Plan be presented at the special meeting of Senate on November 24, 2010.

During a comprehensive discussion, Dr. Knuttila responded to questions from members regarding differentiation, interdisciplinary programs, and decentralization. With respect to the draft Strategic Plan and the mandate of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee, Professor Vivian referred members to his written comments and questions. During further discussion, the following was noted:

- It was not anticipated that there would be more decentralization
- The draft plan dated September 23 was flawed
- Absence of an illuminating strategic vision that sets us apart or makes us undeniable
- Absence of reference to instrumental application or implementation of values invested in a strategic plan, important to the readers who may be looking for direct connection to infrastructure or IT resource planning trends
- Administrative and academic units must go back and review their strategic plans and communication among all units must occur in order to avoid potential duplication
- There may be a need to redesign governance structure and committees
- Timeframes related to the Strategic Plan process would be beneficial
- Planning guidance needs to be provided to administrative units;
- Financial and Human Resource implications must be examined;
- Potential need for additional feedback from students
- On the subject of differentiation, it was stated that this will be pursued on the basis of missions and defined niches and will be embedded into the multi-year accountability agreements

Professor Vivian thanked members for their input and noted that he would bring forward the Committee’s comments at the upcoming meeting of the Governance Committee with Senate Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs on November 3, 2010.

## **5. Space Allocation Practice and Policies**

Dr. Miller reported that the most recent update of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) inventory of space was just released. The data is compiled every three years and measures the extent to which the supply of available space in the provincial system meets the institutional needs as defined by COU space standards.

Brock University continues to be among the lowest ranked for space entitlement with an average of 52.9% compared to the provincial average of 72.2%. With respect to classroom utilization, Brock is operating at 112% and with weighted averages, is only better than one other university.

Dr. Miller provided an overview of the principles that guide space allocation at Brock. During discussion, he responded to questions and received feedback from members. It was suggested that it may be beneficial for the University to strike a committee to assist with the space allocation decisions. The potential to strike a standing committee would be further discussed at the next meeting.

## **6. Other Business**

The Chair noted that due to the scheduling of a special meeting of Senate on November 24, and following consultation with Committee members, the next meeting of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee had been moved from November 24 to December 1 at 3:30 p.m.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.