



Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #5 (2010-11)

SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2010, 3:00 PM

SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Stan Sadava (Chair), Dean Fiona Blaikie, Interim Dean Rick Cheel, Mr. Mike Farrell (Recording Secretary), Professor Sandra Felton, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Professor Bozidar Mitrovic, Professor Michael Plyley, Professor Matthew Royal, Professor Cristina Santos, Professor Susan Sydor

ALSO

PRESENT: For agenda item #2: Professor Uwe Brand, Professor Robert Dimand, Professor Mohammed Dore, Dean Tom Dunk, Professor Dan McCarthy, Professor Richard Mitchell, Professor Ryan Plummer.

REGRETS: Mr. Edward Nkyi, Mr. Daud Grewal, Professor Carol Merriam

1. Approval of Minutes

[The minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2010-11) meeting #3 held on October 6, 2010 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Plyley/Mitrovic)

That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2010-11) meeting #3 held on October 6, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Process for the establishment of Research Institutes - Proposal for the Brock University Environmental Sustainability Institute

[The following documents were distributed to the Committee with the agenda materials: A Petition, dated October 20, 2010, regarding a Proposal for the Brock University Environmental Sustainability Institute signed by several faculty members; the Senate Governance Committee Terms of Reference; a Submission to the Governance Committee of Senate, dated November 15, 2010, from several faculty members; FHB III: 25 - Policy on the Establishment and Review of Research Units, Centres and Institutes; and, a memo signed by several faculty members dated November 16, 2010, Re: Petition regarding BESI Application.]

Faculty members in attendance for the discussion and the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences met with the Committee to discuss the implementation of the process outlined in Faculty Handbook III: 25 - Policy on the Establishment and Review of Research Units, Centres and

Institutes. The discussion was held in relation to the proposed Brock University Environmental Sustainability Institute.

Following discussion, the Governance Committee agreed to review Faculty Handbook III: 25 within the context of the section noted below with respect to clarity, transparency and communication of the process when establishing Research Units, Centres and Institutes. The current proposal would not be affected by the review. The proposal for the Institute will be presented in the new year to the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee.

FHB III: 25.2 Purpose

To provide a policy framework for the creation, approval, review and disestablishment of research units, centres, and institutes;

To provide a policy framework that emphasizes and encourages academic freedom, innovative scholarly research and creative activity, and accountability to the university community; and

To provide a transparent and efficient procedure for the creation, approval, periodic review, and disestablishment of research centres and institutes.

MOVED (Cheel/Plyley)

That the Governance Committee review Faculty Handbook III: 25 with respect to the process for the establishment and review of Research Units, Centres and Institutes.

CARRIED

3. Proposed motion for the Brock University Integrated Plan

[The proposed motion for the Brock University Integrated Plan was distributed with the agenda materials.]

Dr. Knuttila noted that broad consultation had occurred across the University and with Senators with respect to the development of the draft Brock University Integrated Plan. Input was provided to the Provost and Vice-President, Academic through consultations held with Senate Committees, with Senate Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs along with the Governance Committee on November 3 and during a special meeting of Senate held on November 24. Following discussion the motion below was proposed.

MOVED (Knuttila/Cheel)

That the Governance Committee recommend that Senate endorse the strategic academic principles and direction articulated in the Brock University Integrated Plan dated December 2010.

CARRIED

4. Eligibility for appointment as a Committee Chair or Vice-Chair

The Committee received a request to review the policy with respect to student Senators not being eligible to be the Chair or Vice-Chair of a Senate Committee.

The following motion was presented for discussion.

MOVED (Plyley/Cheel)

That the Faculty Handbook be amended to provide for a student Senator to be a Chair or Vice-Chair of a Senate Committee.

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference in Faculty Handbook II for each of the Senate Committees.

The composition of the following Committees: Governance; Graduate Studies; Information Technology and Infrastructure; Research and Scholarship Policy; Teaching and Learning Policy; Undergraduate Program; Undergraduate Student Affairs; and the Student Appeals Board states:

“Two Full-Time Teaching Staff or Professional Librarian members of Senate, one of whom shall serve as Chair and one as Vice-Chair.”

Following discussion, the mover and seconder agreed that the proposed motion be **withdrawn** from consideration. The Governance Committee decided not to propose any change to the current policy.

5. Statement on Respectful Dialogue and Freedom of Expression

[The draft Statement on Respectful Dialogue and Freedom of Expression was distributed to the Committee with the meeting materials.]

Dr. Lightstone provided the rationale for the draft Statement on Respectful Dialogue and Freedom of Expression noting that no current policy or procedures are in place to guide the University regarding the rights and responsibilities of those on our campus (including visitors) with respect to free speech - both when exercising that freedom ourselves or in according the same to others, even when we disagree with them. He noted that maintaining a respectful environment is a value cherished at Brock and this draft would not stymie free speech but safeguard it.

The Committee reviewed the draft statement and provided feedback to the President.

The Committee agreed that the draft statement would be presented to Senate for information and discussion early in the new year. The Board of Trustees would discuss the statement during its meeting on December 2.

MOVED (Santos/Mitrovic)

That the Governance Committee receive the draft Statement on Respectful Dialogue and Freedom of Expression and that the document be presented to Senate for discussion.

CARRIED

6. Consideration of Advisory Committee nominations – in camera

The Governance Committee is responsible for recommending members of Advisory Committees, as outlined for the various senior positions in Section I of the Faculty Handbook. The Committee forwards its recommendations to the President in keeping with the procedures outlined in the Committee's Terms of Reference (FHB II: 9.5.1).

Professor Sadava noted that a motion was required to move *in camera*.

MOVED (Plyley/Sydor)

That the Governance Committee move *in camera*.

CARRIED

The Committee moved *in camera* at 4:38 p.m.

The Committee resumed **open session** at 4:52 p.m.

[During the *in camera* session, a confidential report was circulated regarding nominations for membership on the Advisory Committee for the appointment of the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic. The Committee discussed the names of individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee and would forward its recommendations to the President.]

7. Honorary Degree nominations and review list of proposed Honorary Degree recipients - in camera

Due to time constraints, the review of Honorary Degree nominations and the list of proposed Honorary Degree recipients would be considered during a future meeting early in the new year. A call for nominations would be distributed following the meeting.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.