



Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #4 (2010-11)

SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010, 12:00 PM

13TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM, SCHMON TOWER

PRESENT: Professor Paul Zelisko (Chair), Professor Frances Owen (Vice-Chair), Professor James Allard, Professor Mary Breunig, Professor Joe Engemann, Ms. Margaret Grove, Professor Calvin Hayes, Professor Barry Joe, Professor Diane Mack, Professor James Mandigo, Professor Roberto Nickel, Professor Julie Stevens, Dr. Philip Wright, Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

ALSO

PRESENT: Professor John Mitterer, Ms. Margaret Sanderson

REGRETS: Ms. Tabasum Akseer, Dean Fiona Blaikie, Dr. Greg Finn, Mr. Daud Grewal, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Dean Marilyn Rose

Professor Zelisko welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

[The minutes of Meeting #2 held on October 28, 2010 and Meeting #3 held on November 9, 2010 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Owen/Wright)

THAT the minutes of Meeting #2 (2010-11) held on October 28, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

With respect to the minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2010, it was noted that Professors Allard and Mandigo had been in attendance. The minutes would be amended accordingly.

MOVED (Joe/Mack)

THAT the minutes of Meeting #3 held on November 9, 2010 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

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

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

4. **Undergraduate Teaching Assistants and Associated Pedagogical Issues**

[The following articles written by Professor John Mitterer had been distributed with the meeting materials: “At Least Nero Was Only Fiddling” and “Brock Undergraduate TAs – RIP 2010”.]

Professor Zelisko noted that the matter had been forwarded to the Committee for consideration from the Chair of Senate.

Professor Zelisko welcomed Professor John Mitterer to the meeting. Professor Mitterer referred members to his written articles. He provided an overview of the challenges faced by instructors who desire to hire a teaching assistant who is best suited to accomplish the pedagogical goals of a certain course (for example, an undergraduate teaching assistant for an undergraduate course), as opposed to an individual that current hiring rules state should be hired.

The Committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the multi-faceted issue and associated implications which included matters related to union negotiations, graduate student funding, and quality of education.

Members supported that the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee further examine the issues raised as Senate is responsible for the educational policy of the University. It was suggested that additional information from Human Resources be provided to the Committee to promote a more fruitful discussion and to assist in determining the Committee’s potential next steps to assist in ensuring that pedagogical barriers to effective undergraduate teaching are not imposed on instructors.

MOVED (Hayes/Mack)

THAT a representative from Human Resources be invited to attend a meeting of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee to further discuss the matters raised regarding the hiring of teaching assistants and associated pedagogical issues.

CARRIED

Professor Zelisko agreed to contact Human Resources.

5. **Standing Reports**

5.1 Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies

Professor Joe provided an oral update on activities within the CTLET and responded to questions from members. He was pleased to note that during the Tribute to Teaching event held on December 3, Professor Tim Murphy, Department of Psychology was the recipient of the Brock University Award for Excellence in Teaching for Early Career Faculty and Professor

John Mitterer, Department of Psychology, was the recipient of the Don Ursino Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Large Classes. Professor Joe highlighted several upcoming workshops which can be viewed at <http://www.brocku.ca/ctlet/workshops>

5.2 Library

Ms. Grove provided an oral update on activities within the Library. With respect to the upcoming expiration of the license agreements between Access Copyright and post-secondary institutions, she noted that developments were continuing to unfold and the University was awaiting advice from the AUCC. The Brock community would be kept informed of developments through the Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

Noting that the meeting had reached its one-hour limit, the Chair asked members if wanted to continue past the hour.

MOVED (Allard/Grove)

THAT the meeting be extended to 12:05 p.m.

CARRIED

5.3 Information Technology Services

Dr. Wright provided a verbal update on activities within ITS. Of note, several academic computing policies are currently under review, measures to consolidate software licenses are being examined, the potential for universities to outsource their email will be brought forward for discussion in the future, and there will soon be a call for submissions of Schedule 8 - IT Project Request Forms.

6. Other Business - None

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.