



Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #7 (2010-11)

SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011, 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), Mr. Daud Grewal, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Professor Carol Merriam, Professor Bozidar Mitrovic, Professor Michael Pyley, Professor Matthew Royal, Professor Susan Sydor

ALSO

PRESENT: Professor James Mandigo, Mr. Sebastian Prins (for agenda items #2 and #3)

REGRETS: Professor Sandra Felton, Mr. Edward Nkyi

1. Approval of Minutes

[The minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2010-11) meeting #6 held on January 12, 2011 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Cheel/Sydor)

That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2010-11) meeting #6 held on January 12, 2011 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Eligibility for students to be appointed as a Committee Chair or Vice-Chair

[An e-mail message to the Chair of Senate from Sebastian Prins, Vice President, Finance and Administration, Brock University Students' Union: dated January 11, 2011, was distributed to the Committee with the meeting materials.]

Mr. Prins provided background and the rationale for the request that Senate alter the Faculty Handbook in order that students may run for Committee Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Currently, students do not have the ability to run for Chair and Vice-Chair positions as the Terms of Reference in Faculty Handbook II for each of the Senate Committees provides for:

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

In the e-mail to the Committee Mr. Prins had included a motion that “Senate alter FHB such that students may run for Chair and Vice-Chair positions”.

The Committee discussed the various responsibilities of the positions in question and the qualifications, leadership and experience required. During the discussion, the Committee agreed that more information was required in order to make a decision and requested that Mr. Prins provide a list of the pros and cons with respect to students holding the position of Committee Chair or Vice-Chair. This information would be helpful to any further discussion of the matter. The Committee felt that it was not, at this time, in a position to present the motion included in the correspondence from Mr. Prins.

MOVED (Sydor/Lightstone)

That consideration of the matter that students be eligible to serve as a Senate Committee Chair or Vice-Chair be postponed to a future meeting pending further information, as requested.

CARRIED

3. Protecting student interests in the event of labour disputes on campus

[A draft Policy on Protecting Students during Work Stoppages was provided to the Committee with the meeting materials by Mr. Prins on behalf of the Brock University Students’ Union executive. As well, two related sample policies (York University and McMaster University) were provided with the meeting materials.]

During the 585th meeting of Senate held on January 19, 2011, it was noted that there was no current policy in the Faculty Handbook with respect to protecting student interests in the event of labour disputes on campus. The matter was referred to the Governance Committee for consideration.

The Committee reviewed a draft policy submitted by the Brock University Students’ Union executive and the policies of other Universities. The Committee discussed the potential academic implications of a labour disruption, the role and authority of Senate and the Governance Committee and other related matters.

Following discussion, the Committee appointed an Ad hoc Committee to draft a policy for review by the Governance Committee. The draft policy will be presented to the Governance Committee and then forwarded to Senate for its consideration at a future meeting. The draft policy provided by Mr. Prins would be used to guide the Ad hoc Committee in its deliberations.

MOVED (Cheel/Sydor)

That the Governance Committee form an Ad hoc Committee to draft a policy with respect to protecting student interests in the event of work stoppages on campus.

CARRIED

The ad hoc committee includes: Dr. Susan Sydor, Mr. Sebastian Prins, Dr. Rick Cheel, Dr. Carol Merriam, Ms. Barb Davis, Dr. Stan Sadava and Mr. Mike Farrell.

4. Proposal for a Joint Committee for high-level oversight of the Brock University Integrated Plan

[A report, dated March 9, 2011, on the governance model for high-level oversight of the Integrated Plan was distributed with the meeting materials.]

Dr. Lightstone provided the rationale for the proposed joint committee that would exercise high-level governance oversight of the process going forward for the Integrated Plan. Because of the legitimate interests and responsibilities of both the Senate and the Board in these matters, it was suggested that such a committee comprise the Governance Committee of Senate and the Executive Committee of the Board, both of which exist as standing committees of their respective bodies.

It was noted that on February 17, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved that its Executive Committee participate in the joint committee proposal. If this is acceptable to both bodies, the President would convene the joint Committee and draft terms of reference for the Committee would be discussed. The joint Committee would be staffed by senior management. It is suggested that the Board Chair act as Chair, with the Chair of Senate serving as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

MOVED (Blaikie/Cheel)

That the Governance Committee recommend to Senate that the Governance Committee comprise part of the proposed joint committee along with the Executive Committee of the Board to provide high-level governance oversight of the implementation of the Brock University Integrated Plan and that this joint committee report to both the Senate and the Board.

CARRIED

5. Clarity regarding the Faculty Handbook and the role and authority of the Dean in making decisions about academic matters

a) Role of the Dean in the appeals process

[A report titled: "Excerpts of relevant sections from Faculty Handbook III regarding the role and authority of the Dean in making decisions about academic matters", was distributed with the meeting materials.]

Professors Sydor and Cheel provided background on an issue and the Committee discussed the role of the Dean in making decisions about academic matters as outlined in the Faculty Handbook. Following a brief discussion, the Committee felt that more information was required before further discussion could take place.

MOVED (Sydor/Blaikie)

That further discussion of agenda item #5 be postponed until more information on the matter is available to the Committee.

CARRIED

6. Process for requests for changes in name of Departments

The Committee discussed the process for requests for changes in the name of Departments. Currently, the Undergraduate Program Committee recommends name changes to Senate for consideration.

The Committee requested that the matter be considered by the Academic Review Committee through the Provost and Vice-President, Academic for consideration as to how a request for a change in name would be handled. The Provost and Vice-President, Academic would report back to the Governance Committee with a recommendation from the Academic Review Committee for consideration.

MOVED (Blaikie/Sydor)

That the Governance Committee request that the Academic Review Committee consider the appropriate process for how a Department name change would be handled.

CARRIED

- 7. Request for posthumous awarding of the title Professor Emeritus – *in camera***
- 8. Nominations for the Senate Ad hoc Committee to Review the Draft Statement on Respectful Dialogue and Freedom of Expression – *in camera***
- 9. Honorary Degree nominations – *in camera***

[The confidential nominations for Honorary Degrees were available for members to review in the University Secretariat Office prior to the meeting. The Procedures and Guidelines for Nomination for Honorary Degrees were distributed with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sadava noted that a motion was required to move *in camera* for agenda items 7, 8 and 9.

MOVED (Sydor/Plyley)

That the Governance Committee move *in camera*.

CARRIED

The Committee moved *in camera* at 4:32 p.m.

The Committee resumed **open session** at 5:07 p.m.

[During the *in camera* session, nominations for membership on the Senate Ad hoc Committee to Review the Draft Statement on Respectful Dialogue and Freedom of Expression were approved.]

Confidential Honorary Degree nominations were considered by the Committee and confidential recommendations to Senate were passed.

A request for the posthumous awarding of the title Professor Emeritus was considered by the Committee.

Note: Following the meeting, Professor Sadava sent the following message to the Governance Committee:

I wanted to inform you that the report of the Governance Committee to Senate does not include the in camera item regarding the posthumous awarding of the designation of Professor Emeritus. I wanted to bring this matter back to the Committee for review in light of it being an exception to the Faculty Handbook and to consider if the FHB should be amended to accommodate this and future requests of this nature.]

10. Update on consultation regarding the search for the Vice-President, Research

The Committee discussed a memo from the President regarding the context for a consultation with Senate with respect to the recommendation for a Vice-President, Research. The memo had been circulated to Senate by the Chair of Senate on February 18, 2011.

Faculty Handbook I: 7.6 a) states that: Before making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees, the President shall consult, on a confidential basis, with the Senior Administrators' Council and with Senate.

The President explained that the need for a consultation by e-mail is due to the timing of Senate meetings and the Advisory Committee's schedule involving the short listed candidates. The University would not have had the opportunity to complete negotiations with the candidate before the Senate meeting of March 23 and the next Senate meeting is not scheduled until April 13. Without a recommendation for the March 23 Senate meeting, the challenge is to make a timely decision while following protocols and making reasonable accommodation to various calendar restrictions.

Following discussion, the Governance Committee agreed that in light of these exceptional circumstances that an e-mail consultation be undertaken regarding the recommendation of a Vice-President, Research.

MOVED (Blaikie/Cheel)

That in light of the exceptional circumstances that an e-mail consultation be undertaken with Senate regarding the recommendation of the President with respect to the appointment of a Vice-President, Research.

CARRIED

11. Clarification of FHB 1: 3.2 Appointment/reappointment of Presidents

[The procedures for the Appointment/Reappointment of Presidents were circulated with the meeting materials.]

Due to time considerations this item will be discussed during a future meeting.

12. Other business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.