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Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #7 (2010-11)

SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011, 11:00 AM

13TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM, SCHMON TOWER

PRESENT: Professor Paul Zelisko (Chair), Professor Frances Owen (Vice-Chair), Professor James Allard, Dean Fiona Blaikie, Professor Mary Breunig, Dr. Greg Finn, Ms. Margaret Grove, Professor Calvin Hayes, Professor Barry Joe, Professor Diane Mack, Professor Roberto Nickel, Dean Marilyn Rose, Professor Julie Stevens, Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

ALSO

PRESENT: Ms. Barbara Harrison, Ms. Kim Meade, Ms. Margaret Sanderson

REGRETS: Professor Joe Engemann, Mr. Daud Grewal, Professor James Mandigo, Dr. Philip Wright

Professor Zelisko welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

[The minutes of Meeting #6 held on February 17, 2011 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Owen/Breunig)

THAT the minutes of Meeting #6 (2010-11) held on February 17, 2011 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes - None

3. Report of the Chair

Professor Zelisko noted that he had received a question from a member of BUSU as to why minors are not included on diplomas and had forwarded the inquiry to the Registrar.

4. Service Learning Presentation

The Chair welcomed Ms. Kim Meade and Ms. Barbara Harrison to the meeting. Two handouts were circulated to members: “A Service-Learning Snapshot” and an article entitled “Service learning at Brock”.

Ms. Harrison provided a detailed overview of service learning at Brock. Service learning combines academic study, practical experience and reflection in order to find ways to respond creatively, ethically and collaboratively, to public issues and community needs. Brock offers service learning opportunities across all academic programs at various years of study, from first year to fourth, as well as some graduate courses. As well, Sociology 1F99, Foundations in Service Learning, was implemented this year and has offered a new model of teaching for students.

The First Annual Community Learning Showcase will be held on April 2, 2011 at 11:15 a.m. in the Pond Inlet and members were invited to attend. Members were also invited to join the group of faculty, staff and students who meet for an hour every second Monday to discuss service-learning and its application to courses at Brock. For additional information on service learning, members were encouraged to contact Barbara Harrison at Barbara.harrison@brocku.ca.

During discussion, Ms. Meade responded to questions. Highlights from the discussion included:

- Data provided to the Ministry two years ago, showed that over 7,000 students at Brock had actively engaged in some form of experiential/service learning. An update to the inventory of courses would be completed again and would be made available.
- As service learning is now an integral component of the University’s strategic plan, methods to benchmark measurable objectives and outcomes would be required. The component of service learning would also be examined when programs come up for review.
- Additional staff and financial resources will be required to assist with including service learning in courses.
- Attention must be given to risk management.

The Chair thanked Ms. Meade and Ms. Harrison for the informative report, and they retired from the remainder of the meeting.

5. Update re: Accommodating Students who Require Accommodation with Academic Work or Deadlines

Dr. Finn reminded members that at the meeting of Senate 580 held on May 26, 2010, Senate passed a motion and referred back to the Committee the *Best Practices for Accommodating Students Who Require Accommodation with Academic Work or Deadlines: A Guide for Instructors and Students* for further review and consultation which would include discussion with the Student Appeals Board. He circulated the related background materials to members. Professor Zelisko noted that he had been in contact with the Chair of the Student Appeals Board to arrange a meeting.

Dr. Finn noted that following a recent discussion with the Associate Deans, it was suggested that an “Academic Exemption” form for all students be utilized, including student athletes. The Chair noted that there is also a Student Medical Certificate and clarification of the use of different forms would need to be communicated.

The Committee then engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the pros and cons of developing a policy regarding academic exemptions as opposed to a best practices document. Following discussion it was concurred that a draft policy be developed to include as broad and meaningful language as possible to set out basic principles. Members were asked to forward their ideas and suggestions regarding basic principles for inclusion to the Chair who would develop a preliminary draft document for the Committee’s consideration at the next meeting.

6. Standing Reports

6.1 Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies

Professor Joe provided an update on activities within the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies. Detailed information can be viewed at www.brocku.ca/ctlet. Of note, the CTLET is hosting its Spring Teaching and Learning Day: Pedagogical Innovation and Imagination on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 in the Sean O’ Sullivan Theatre at 9:00 a.m. which includes an opening plenary from Dr. Michael Wesch, Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Kansas State University. Members were encouraged to attend.

6.2 Library

Ms. Grove provided a brief update on activities within the Library. Detailed information can be viewed on the James A. Gibson library website www.brocku.ca/library which includes the latest edition of the Library Newsletter. Members were also encouraged to review the up-to-date copyright information at www.brocku.ca/library/campus-copyright-information

6.3 Information Technology Services

The Chair noted that Dr. Wright was away from the University and unable to attend today’s meeting.

7. Other Business

It was requested if electronic copies of the hand-outs circulated during the Service Learning presentation could be distributed to all members of the Committee. The Committee Secretary would follow-up.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.