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Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #9 (2010-11)

SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011, 11:00 AM

13TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM, SCHMON TOWER

PRESENT: Dr. Paul Zelisko (Chair), Professor Frances Owen (Vice-Chair), Dean Fiona Blaikie, Professor Mary Breunig, Professor Joe Engemann, Professor Calvin Hayes, Professor Barry Joe, Dean Marilyn Rose, Professor Julie Stevens, Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

ALSO

PRESENT: Ms. Judith Brooder, Ms. Margaret Sanderson

REGRETS: Professor James Allard, Dr. Greg Finn, Mr. Daud Grewal, Ms. Margaret Grove, Professor Diane Mack, Professor James Mandigo, Professor Roberto Nickel, Dr. Philip Wright

Dr. Zelisko welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

[The minutes of Meeting #8 held on April 28, 2011 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Engemann/Hayes)

THAT the minutes of Meeting #8 (2010-11) held on April 28, 2011 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes – None

3. Report of the Chair - None

4. Academic Accommodation Policy for Student with Disabilities

[A draft policy “Academic Accommodation for Student with Disabilities” dated March 2011 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

The Committee reviewed the draft policy for the Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities as presented by Ms. Brooder. The detailed document clearly outlines the roles and

responsibilities of all stakeholders across campus and includes an appeal mechanism. The Committee was highly supportive of the draft document which will be presented to Senate once final approval from the appropriate bodies has been obtained.

5. Accommodation of Students Missing Academic Requirements

[Feedback received from Committee Members and background information from Senate 580 dated May 17, 2010 regarding *Best Practices for Accommodating Students Who Require Accommodation with Academic Work or Deadlines: A Guide for Instructors and Students*” had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Dr. Zelisko noted that he had followed-up with the Chair of the Student Appeals Board who had confirmed to him that the Student Appeals Board was not in support of the *Best Practices for Accommodating Students Who Require Accommodation with Academic Work or Deadlines: A Guide for Instructors and Students*.

Dr. Zelisko opened the floor and a discussion ensued regarding next steps. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the University had no existing policy on student attendance.

During discussion, the Committee concurred that the matter was worth pursuing further as a set of “considerations” for students who need adjustments to their academic work schedule and further strategizing was necessary. It was suggested that it may be prudent to consult first with the Committee of Academic Deans and form an ad-hoc committee to examine the matter further. The matter would be forwarded to next year’s Committee for further consideration.

6. Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation

[An Information Item to the Committee Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation dated May 17, 2011 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

The Committee received a report from Ms. Sanderson on the Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation. The report outlined some of the steps that Brock University must take in order to meet the legal requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) passed by the Province in 2005. This presentation was also made to the Senate Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee. A key strategy in meeting the requirements for the University under the AODA is to proactively design resources that will meet the needs of a larger cohort while at the same time minimizing the need for potentially costly individual accommodations. Examples of how this can be accomplished include universal instructional design and the development of a highly accessible website and telecommunications network. Appropriate training will be also an integral part of this process.

7. Standing Reports

7.1 Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies

Professor Joe provided a brief update on activities within the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies.

7.2 Library - None

7.3 Information Technology Services - None

8. Other Business

Professor Engemann noted that an outstanding item regarding the level of English literacy of incoming students (discussed by the Committee during the meeting held on April 28, 2011) be carried over to next year's Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, Professor Joe extended appreciation to outgoing Chair Dr. Zelisko for his leadership. Dr. Zelisko thanked members for their hard work and support.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.