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Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #1 (2011-12)

SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2011, 3:00 PM

SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Carol Merriam (Chair), Professor Don Cyr,
Mr. Mike Farrell (Recording Secretary), Dean Douglas Kneale,
Dr. Murray Knuttila, Professor Ingrid Makus, Professor Dan Malleck,
Professor Hans Skott-Myhre, Mr. Luke Speers, Professor Susan Sydor

REGRETS: Mr. Riaz Akseer, Dean Fiona Blaikie, Professor Bozidar Mitrovic,
Professor David Vivian

Professor Merriam welcomed members to the first meeting of the Governance Committee for the 2011-12 academic year.

1. Approval of Minutes

[The minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2010-11) meeting #9 held on April 27, 2011, was distributed with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Sydor/Kneale)

That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2010-11) meeting #9 held on April 27, 2011 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Review of the Governance Committee 2010-11 Annual Report

[The Governance Committee Annual Report 2010-11 was circulated with the meeting materials. The report was submitted to Senate for information during the meeting held May 25, 2011.]

During discussion of the Governance Committee Annual Report, a question arose regarding the concept of Faculty Councils and when this would be discussed by the Committee. Dr. Knuttila will be discussing Faculty Councils with the Committee of Academic Deans (CAD) at a future meeting and would then report to the Governance Committee. The Committee discussed the formation and roles of Faculty Councils and agreed to include this item on the agenda for its next meeting. It was suggested that understanding Faculty Council models at other universities may be helpful for the discussion.

3. Review of the Governance Committee 2011-12 Critical Path

[The Governance Committee 2011-12 Critical Path was circulated with the meeting materials.]

Professor Merriam informed the Committee that the Critical Path outlines agenda items for the coming year and that it is a work in progress as new priorities will arise. The Committee was reminded of the meeting with Senate Committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Secretaries to be held immediately following the Senate Orientation on September 14.

4. Review of the Governance Committee Terms of Reference

[The Governance Committee Terms of Reference were circulated with the meeting materials.]

The Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference. The Committee now comprises part of the 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 also recommends regarding proposals for a change in the name of academic units. The Committee discussed the implementation of the Integrated Plan with respect to transdisciplinary initiatives and if the Senate Committee structure was appropriate to support the directions of the University.

A question also arose as to the status of the School of Indigenous Studies proposal. Mr. Farrell will report to the Committee on this matter at its next meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding ways to communicate and organize decisions of Senate and information items to Senate for better access and visibility for the Brock community. Mr. Farrell agreed to explore other opportunities in addition to the current activities and report back to the Committee.

5. Senate Committee membership update

Mr. Farrell provided an update on the recent additions to the membership of Senate Committees.

6. Other Business

There was no other business

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.