



Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #2 (2011-12)

SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011, 11:00 AM

13TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM, SCHMON TOWER

PRESENT: Professor Roberto Nickel (Chair), Professor Kelly Lockwood (Vice-Chair),
Dr. Greg Finn, Professor Calvin Hayes, Professor Barry Joe,
Professor Sarah Matheson, Professor Susan Sydor, Dr. Philip Wright,
Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

ALSO

PRESENT: Dr. Jill Grose

REGRETS: Dean Fiona Blaikie, Professor Charles Conteh, Ms. Margaret Grove,
Professor Bozidar Mitrovic, Dean Michael Plyley, Mr. Chris Ventura

1. Approval of Minutes

[The minutes of Meeting #1 (2011-12) held on September 22, 2011 had been circulated with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Lockwood/Joe)

THAT the minutes of Meeting #1 (2011-12) of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee meeting held on September 22, 2011 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes - None

3. Report of the Chair - None

4. Considerations for Students Who Miss Academic Deadlines/Work – Update

In follow-up to the discussion held during the previous Committee meeting, Professor Nickel noted that he had met with the Chair of the Senate Student Appeals Board, Professor Webber, regarding the potential development of a policy document to accommodate students who may need to miss academic deadlines/work. Professor Webber related to Professor Nickel that when the matter was raised during the previous academic year, the Student Appeals Board reported to Senate that such a policy and/or guidelines would not be supported by the Student Appeals Board.

The Student Appeals Board's rationale for its decision not to support the development of such a policy included the following:

- Cases related to this matter do not come before the Board; hence, the current system does not be to be changed.
- The Board agreed it would not be in the students' best interest to develop such a policy as the document could not take into consideration the numerous and varying reasons for missing academic deadlines/work.
- The Board agreed that such a policy could undermine a professor's pedagogical freedom to define standards within their discipline.

The Chair of the Student Appeals Board further related that should such a policy be presented to Senate this year, the Board would speak against it.

Professor Nickel then questioned the Committee as to next steps. The Committee agreed that Professor Nickel report to Senate that the matter has been reconsidered and that the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee would not be moving forward with the development of such a policy or guidelines.

5. Privacy Policies and Implications for the Classroom

Professor Nickel noted that background information regarding FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) and current Brock Policies, Procedures and Best Practices regarding privacy had been posted with the meeting materials.

Dr. Wright indicated that he had raised this issue to gain input from the Committee with respect to potential policy development due to challenges that may arise when utilizing social media in pedagogical situations due to FIPPA requirements. Given the University's obligations under FIPPA, it is important that those instructors and students engaging on public social media sites in pedagogical situations understand that the information provided may not be kept confidential. It was suggested that it may be prudent to include a statement on such a site that indicates that students are aware that they may be waiving their right to privacy regarding the personal information they reveal on the site. Dr. Wright suggested that Marion Hansen, Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator, be invited to the next meeting to provide additional information on the matter.

During discussion, Dr. Wright responded to questions and expanded on the differences between utilizing Brock's Sakai which is hosted on Brock's server behind fire walls and must be authenticated using Brock credentials as compared to a social media site such as Facebook.

Dr. Finn noted that at a recent meeting of the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents, the topic of social media and pedagogy was raised. OCAV will continue to collect information regarding potential policy development and will further discuss the matter at its next meeting. Dr. Finn would keep the Committee updated following OCAV's discussions.

The popularity of utilizing social media as a tool in the classroom was recognized; however, it was agreed that the tool must be used wisely. It was suggested that it may be beneficial for the University to issue an “advisory notice”, as opposed to a policy, to outline privacy issues related to utilizing social media in the classroom.

The matter would be discussed further at the next meeting.

6. Standing Reports

6.1 Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies

Professor Joe reported on the following activities:

Teaching Awards

The CTLET chaired the adjudication panel for the Brock University Distinguished Teaching Award 2011 and forwarded the name of Professor Nancy Francis to the Chair of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee. The announcement has been made public on the Brock website, and the award will be conferred during Fall Convocation, where Professor Francis will offer the Convocation Address.

The CTLET chaired the adjudication panel for the Excellence in Sessional Teaching Award 2011, and is pleased to announce that Giselle Whyte of the Faculty of Education has been selected as this year's recipient. The award will be conferred during the Tribute to Teaching on December 2.

E-Learning Initiative

Letters of acceptance have gone out to successful candidates for online course development. Preliminary meetings are underway and some initial development for the nine courses has begun.

Faculty Development

Narrative Learning Community - As a follow up to the three-day Narrative Institute in August, the CTLET had its first meeting of the Narrative Learning Community on October 17. This group will meet monthly for ongoing discussions about incorporating various forms of narrative into teaching and learning.

StoryBox

Professor Joe noted that Alan Levine and the StoryBox, a digital time capsule that has traveled with Alan Levine on a road trip around North America, will be at Brock University on October 21 in TH253. He encouraged members to attend the event.

Copyright

The position of Copyright Coordinator has been posted on the Brock website. A description of the position can be viewed at http://www.brocku.ca/hr/careers/position_detail.php?nounion=1&id=976. The position will jointly report to the University Librarian and to the Director of the CTLET.

A copyright workshop will be offered on November 1, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. to help faculty begin transitioning to the impending move to Fair Dealing when Brock's commitment to the Access Copyright Interim Tariff concludes at the end of August 2012.

The University of Windsor has built into CLEW, its institutional version of Sakai, the mandatory declaration of copyright before a user may upload a file to the site. Professor Joe suggested that given the impending transition to Fair Dealing and the ongoing need to educate users about copyright in the Sakai environment, a full discussion by the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee regarding the implications of Brock's implementation of a similar feature in Isaak is prudent and necessary. The Committee concurred that the matter would be placed on a future agenda.

6.2 Library - None

6.3 Information Technology Services

Dr. Wright provided an oral update on activities within ITS. He encouraged members to view the Information Technology Projects site at <http://www.brocku.ca/information-technology/projects> and to request any additional information on the projects.

During discussion, Professor Sydor expressed appreciation for the support received from ITS, and specifically from Mr. Phil Nardangeli with respect to requests for audio visual services. She then noted several challenges with the portable Smart Boards purchased by the Faculty of Education and utilized in Welch Hall. She suggested that it may be prudent that the Committee develop standards for classroom technology to ensure that equipment purchased is meeting the University's needs. Due to time constraints, the Chair suggested that the matter be placed on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

7. Other Business - None

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.