



**Brock University Senate**

MINUTES OF MEETING #3 (2011-12)

**SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2011, 3:00 PM

BOARD ROOM, 13<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, SCHMON TOWER

**PRESENT:** Professor Carol Merriam (Chair), Mr. Riaz Akseer, Dean Fiona Blaikie, Mr. Mike Farrell (Recording Secretary), Dean Douglas Kneale, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Professor Ingrid Makus, Professor Dan Malleck, Professor Bozidar Mitrovic, Professor Hans Skott-Myhre, Mr. Luke Speers, Professor Susan Sydor

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Les McCurdy-Myers, Alumni Association Board of Directors; Ms. Christine Jones, Director, Alumni Relations; Mr. Kithio Mwanzia, Alumni Association Board of Directors; Mr. David Petis, Vice-President, Advancement (All for agenda Item #2)

**REGRETS:** Professor Don Cyr, Professor David Vivian

Professor Merriam welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

[The minutes meeting #2 (2011-12) of the Senate Governance Committee held on September 28, 2011, had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

**MOVED** (Sydor/Mitrovic)

**That the minutes of meeting #2 (2011-12) of the Senate Governance Committee held on September 28, 2011 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

Professor Merriam noted that there was business arising from the minutes that would be presented following consideration of agenda item #2.

**2. Brock University Alumni Association Request for Senate Representation**

[A memo to the Chair of the Governance Committee dated October 25, 2011 and a report titled "Brock University Alumni Association – Brock University Senate Proposal" dated October 24, 2011, had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

Mr. Les McCurdy-Myers, Ms. Christine Jones, Mr. Kithio Mwanzia, and Mr. David Petis were in attendance for the report of the Brock University Alumni Association.

Mr. McCurdy-Myers and Mr. Mwanzia presented the report on behalf of the Association. It was proposed that the Association annually elect one representative from its Board of Directors to serve as a member of Senate. The representative would remain as an ex-officio member of the Association's Board of Directors while serving as a member of Senate. The objectives, rationale and details of the proposal for representation on Senate were presented along with the history, mission and governance of the Association.

Following the presentation, the guests retired from the meeting and the Committee considered the proposal. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the request for membership on Senate be recommended to Senate for consideration. The Committee did not determine if the representative should have voting privileges or be a non-voting member of Senate. The Committee would leave this decision to Senate when considering the proposal.

**MOVED** (Makus/Sydor)

**That the Governance Committee recommend to Senate that the request of the Brock University Alumni Association to annually elect one representative from its Board of Directors to serve as a member of Senate be approved.**

**CARRIED**

Professor Merriam noted that the business arising from the minutes would now be presented.

- a) Professor Merriam read a response from the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee to the Governance Committee regarding amendments to Faculty Handbook III: 25. Professor Merriam had forwarded a communication from Professor Mohammed Dore to the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee which requested that the amendments to FHB III: 25 be revisited to include previous wording regarding a transparent and efficient procedure. Professor Dore questioned why the values of openness, accountability and inclusiveness were not more explicit in the current policy. The Committee reviewed the request and noted that a procedure was introduced in FHB III: 25.4.2 to have any application for a research centre/institute posted on the University Secretariat web site for a minimum of 21 days. The response will be included with the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee report to Senate for the November 16, 2011.
- b) The Committee had previously discussed various models of Faculty Councils with respect to composition, mandate, authority and formal or informal connections to Senate. Included for information with the agenda material was a copy of the Brock University Faculty of Education Faculty Board Constitution and Bylaws.

As requested by the Committee, Dr. Knuttila provided an update on his consultation with the Committee of Academic Deans regarding Faculty Councils. He stated that there was little support for Faculty Councils at this time as it was seen to add another level of bureaucracy while not improving governance in a decentralized model.

### **3. Nomination of the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee**

Professor Merriam notified the Committee that the Chair of Graduate Studies has withdrawn her resignation as Committee Chair. As a result, there was no need to discuss this agenda item.

Dr. Knuttila retired from the meeting.

### **4. Review of the designation for a posthumous award**

[A Background report titled "Review of designation for posthumous award" dated November 2, 2011, was circulated with the agenda material.]

Professor Merriam informed the Committee that in 2010-11 the Governance Committee received a request with respect to the posthumous awarding of the title Professor Emeritus. The matter was discussed by the Committee and reported to Senate on May 11, 2011.

In reviewing the current policy in the Faculty Handbook II: 11 Professor Emeritus/a, the Committee felt that it was not consistent with how the honorific designation is defined and agreed to take no action at this time.

### **5. Communication of Senate Activities**

Mr. Farrell reviewed on screen a report on methods to communicate Senate activities to the Brock community which included suggestions from the previous meeting of the Committee. The initiatives included communication amendments to the Faculty Handbook; Other Actions and Information from Senate meetings; use of the Secretariat web site and the Brock Home Page and other actions. The initiatives in the report would be implemented for the new year.

### **6. For the Information of Senate - Nominations for Honorary Degrees**

Mr. Farrell reported that members of Senate recently received a notice regarding nominations for Honorary Degrees. Nominations for Honorary Degrees may be submitted by any member of the University community or the public on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The Senate Governance Committee reviews, in confidence, all nominations received and forwards its recommendations to Senate for consideration. In order to ensure that nominations are considered for the June 2012 Convocation, the request asked for nomination forms to be submitted by January 25, 2012. A reminder will follow in the new year.

## 7. Other Business

### **Report of the Vice-President, Research on the Senate agenda**

Professor Merriam informed the Committee that the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee is recommending to Senate that a report of the Vice-President, Research be included as a standing item on each Senate agenda. The Governance Committee has responsibility for Faculty Handbook II: 7.1.5 - Order of Business. As a result, if Senate approves the recommendation from the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee, the recommendation to include the amendment in the Faculty Handbook would be presented for consideration by the Governance Committee.

**MOVED** (Sydor/Speers)

**That the Governance Committee recommend to Senate that Faculty Handbook II: 7.1.5 - Order of Business be amended to include a standing report of the Vice-President, Research on each Senate meeting agenda.**

(Shading indicates the addition)

### **Faculty Handbook II: 7.1.5 Order of Business**

The following shall normally be the order of business at regular meetings (the order of business may, however, be determined by the Chair and varied only by a two-thirds vote):

- a) minutes of the last regular meeting and of any intervening special meetings;
- b) business arising out of the minutes;
- c) communications, each item to be disposed of as read;
- d) report of the Chair of Senate;
- e) report of the President and Vice-Chancellor;
- f) report of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic;
- g) report of the Vice-President, Research
- h g) report of the Academic Colleague on meetings of the Council of Ontario Universities;
- i h) report of actions of the Board of Trustees;
- j i) unfinished business from the last meeting;
- k j) reports of standing committees;
- l k) reports of special committees;
- m l) new business.

**CARRIED**

On another matter, the Committee requested that the Professor Merriam consult with the Vice-President, Research and the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee on the possibility of a change in title to Vice-President, Research and Scholarship. The Chair will report back to the Committee on this matter.

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.