



(Circulated prior to approval)

Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #3 (2011-12)

SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011, 11:00 AM

13TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM, SCHMON TOWER

PRESENT: Professor Roberto Nickel (Chair), Dean Fiona Blaikie, Professor Charles Conteh, Dr. Greg Finn, Ms. Chris Gigler, Ms. Margaret Grove, Professor Barry Joe, Professor Sarah Matheson, Professor Bozidar Mitrovic, Dean Michael Plyley, Mr. Chris Ventura, Dr. Philip Wright, Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

ALSO

PRESENT: Dr. Jill Grose, Ms. Marion Hansen, Ms. Margaret Sanderson

REGRETS: Professor Calvin Hayes, Professor Kelly Lockwood, Professor Susan Sydor

Professor Nickel welcomed members and called the meeting to order. He introduced Ms. Chris Gigler, the new graduate student representative on the Committee.

The Chair noted that agenda item 5, CTLET Proposal, would be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee on December 15, 2011.

1. Approval of Minutes

[The minutes of Meeting #2 (2011-12) held on October 2, 2011 had been circulated with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Joe/Wright)

THAT the minutes of Meeting #2 (2011-12) of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee meeting held on October 20, 2011 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes - None

3. Report of the Chair - None

4. Utilization of Social Media in the Classroom and FIPPA Requirements

Professor Nickel introduced Ms. Marion Hansen, Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator. Ms. Hansen provided an overview of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) in the context of Brock University. She expanded on the two key principles of the Act which are public access to information and the protection of personal privacy. Members were encouraged to review the information related to FIPPA available on Brock's website at <http://www.brocku.ca/university-secretariat/freedom-information-protection-privacy> and Brock University's social media guidelines available at: <http://www.brocku.ca/marketing-communications/social-media>. As well, Ms. Hansen noted that an informative presentation titled "Online Social Networks: How to Protect Yourself" was available at: http://www.ipc.on.ca/images/Resources/2010-11-09-Sir_Sanford_Fleming_Academy.pdf

The Chair then opened the floor and a discussion ensued regarding potential implications associated with using social media in the classroom and how to ensure that the University is in compliance with FIPPA requirements. Potential implications related to an instructor's development of a social media site not located on Brock's server were also identified, as were matters related to defamatory postings on social media sites and issues regarding academic freedom. Members presented several examples of challenges that have arisen at other universities with respect to the use of social media. It was suggested that it may be prudent for the University to obtain legal advice on the matter. The potential for the University to develop an advisory statement that could be posted on social media sites being used or on course outlines was also discussed.

It was suggested that further information be obtained from other universities regarding what guidelines and/or policies are in place within their institution with respect to the use of social media. Professor Nickel would bring back the information to the Committee when available.

It was noted that the Ontario Council of Academic Vice Presidents would be discussing a systematic approach regarding the use of social media at an upcoming meeting. Dr. Finn would report back to the Committee following OCAV's consideration of the matter.

5. CTLET Proposal - Deferred

6. Standing Reports

6.1 Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies

Professor Joe reported on the following activities, noting that details regarding the events are posted on the CTLET website:

- Professor David DiBattista recently facilitated a workshop "Making the Most of Multiple Choice".
- New information regarding scantron reports would be provided to the Committee in the near future.

- Copyright information sessions, co-sponsored by the Library and CTLET, have been scheduled.
- The annual Tribute to Teaching would be held on December 2 followed by the annual Reception and Awards.

6.2 Library

Ms. Grove reported that the Search Committee for the position of Copyright Coordinator has shortlisted three candidates and will be conducting interviews shortly. She noted that several other Ontario universities have made similar appointments and that an informal information-sharing network is being established. The Library recently filled two librarian positions (Data Librarian and Liaison/E-Learning Librarian) and is currently engaged in interviews for a third vacant librarian position.

In connection with strategic planning, Ms. Grove mentioned that she intends to provide some of the Library's strategic objectives pertaining to teaching and learning to the Committee for information and comment at a future meeting.

6.3 Information Technology Services

In follow-up to a matter raised at the previous meeting with respect to portable Smart Boards, Dr. Wright and Dean Blaikie expanded on the Faculty of Education's rationale for choosing the product for use within the Faculty.

Dr. Wright provided an oral update on the various projects completed and/or underway by Information Technology Services. During discussion, Dr. Wright received feedback from members with respect to needed ITS updates in specific classrooms.

7. Other Business - None

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.