

SENATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP POLICY COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 2011 AT 9:00AM - 10:30AM
IN MC D350-L

PRESENT: Professor Steven Renzetti (Chair), Professor Francine McCarthy (Vice-Chair), Professor Kimberly Cote, David Gabriel, Ms. Margaret Grove, Dean Philip Kitchen, Dr. Gary Libben, Professor James Mandigo, Dean Michael Pyley, Professor Lynn Rempel, Professor Jennifer Rowsell, Professor Dragos Simandan, Professor Elizabeth Vlossak, Mr. Chris Ventura, Ms. Judith Maiden (Recorder)

ALSO PRESENT: Dean Tom Dunk, Ryan Plummer

REGRETS: Mr. Daniel Anti-Amoa, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Professor Diane Miller

Introductions / Welcome

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED (Simandan /Gabriel)

THAT the agenda be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOVED (Rowsell /Vlossak)

THAT the minutes of the #2 (2011 - 2012) Senate Research & Scholarship Policy Committee held on October 18, 2011 be approved with the correction of the misspelling on the fourth page of the name ‘Simandon’ changed to ‘Simandan’.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from Minutes

Professor Mandigo inquired as to when the committee will receive an update on the Travel and Field Safety Policy. Dr. Knuttila was not present to address it, so he will be asked to provide a status item update on the Travel & Field Safety Policy for the next meeting.

Professor Renzetti contacted Maureen Murphy regarding the term ‘under the auspices or within the jurisdiction of Brock University’. This statement can be found in the Ethics section in FHB III: 8.2.1 (b) Human Research at Brock, ‘...*This policy applies to funded and non-funded research involving human participants conducted on or off campus by Brock University faculty, staff, graduate students, undergraduate students and to anyone conducting research under the auspices or within the jurisdiction of Brock University*’. This statement pertains to all human participant research.

The Research Ethics Boards would like this term defined to make it clearer what it means since there is an increasing number of faculty/students from other universities who may be carrying out research at Brock and it would be useful to clarify how those researchers’ work is to be

governed. Ms. Murphy will look at the wording and provide guidance and/or interpretation of the phrase and report back at the January meeting.

There will be an administrative review of the Office of Research Services conducted in January. Dr. Libben inquired whether the committee wanted to undertake what they are addressing.

As proposed at the last meeting, a standing item for the Report of the Vice-President Research was approved at Senate. This report will be added to future Senate agendas.

Professor Renzetti provided an update that at the last meeting of Senate all the motions were approved in regard to the changes proposed to FHB: 8 Ethics. It was noted that Senators were appreciative of our efforts with this policy. He stated that all the motions were passed without comment.

Dean Plyley inquired as to the schedule of the rewrite and editing for the Intellectual Property policy and ethics component which Dr. Brindle had initiated before he completed his term. He would like the Faculty of Graduate Studies to have a link to web IP rights and things of this nature and inquired if there is a time frame for getting this done. Dr. Libben hopes to have this policy updated by January.

4. Reports from Sub-Committees

None

5. Overhead Policy

The Office of Research Services will be reviewing the Overhead Policy. Dr. Libben wants to ensure we are doing this update in a fair and equitable manner. It should be a very straight forward process.

With the overhead policy we need to make sure that costs are associated with research and to see how these funds help research.

6. Environmental Sustainability Research Centre Application

Professor Plummer stated that originally a small group of faculty member's initiated discussions regarding the formation of an environmental sustainability group at Brock. In 2010 - 2011, they followed the guidelines in the Faculty Handbook to form the Brock Environmental Sustainability Research Unit (BESRU) within the Department of Tourism and Environment. Since its formation, BESRU has grown rapidly from an initial 5 members to the current 21 members. Because of recent changes made to Faculty Handbook III: 25 and its rapid growth, BESRU decided to change their status from that of a unit to a centre as defined in the new nomenclature.

Following the application procedure guidelines set out in FHB III: 25.4 an executive application summary was posted for 21 days on the University Secretariat website prior to coming to the committee for review. Dean Dunk mentioned there has always been an

open process and that by reading the application you would notice it has been a transparent process. There has been wide spread support for the idea of a centre for environmental sustainability and reports from all different factions were included in the ESRC proposal.

Professor Mandigo thought the proposal was very well prepared and a thorough document, but questioned why not become an institute. Professor Plummer felt because of their size in the beginning it was better to become a unit and now that they have become larger to make the change to becoming a centre. He hopes that at the five year review mark they may be able to look to become an institute.

Professor Mandigo mentioned there is work being done on the nomenclature on the academic side now and that institutes cannot offer programs. Professor Plummer observed that any programs have to follow proper procedures and that they will have to become a research centre before becoming an institute. Professor Plummer stated that the new nomenclature makes sense and ensures that you consult with all the people you need to and the process was beneficial and really strengthened the proposal.

Dean Kitchen was surprised the Faculty of Business is not mentioned in the proposal because of the economic activity involved and said he would welcome an involvement in this type of activity as there are numerous people in the Faculty of Business involved in environmental sustainability. Professor Plummer stated they have been welcoming to individuals who have expressed an interest.

Professor Plummer stated there had been issues regarding the Environment Canada funding and a settlement is still to be worked out, but the group has secured two grants for \$110,000 with Water Smart and can still reach their mandates.

A question was posed regarding how to inform the university community that proposals for Research Centres and Institutes have been posted. It was suggested there should be a mechanism to receive feedback and to make it clear that proposals are online. Dean Dunk reminded everyone that an earlier iteration of the proposal ran into problems regarding transparency. Professor Renzetti mentioned that he met with the Council of Academic Deans in September regarding the changes made to FHB:III:25 Policy on the Establishment and Review of Research Centres and Institutes and left it with them to determine the best way to post the information to ensure an open and transparent process is achieved.

Discussion ensued regarding the best way to post the information. Some suggestions included on the VPR website where it could include latest news on centre activity and

listing a URL to visit for more information. It was thought that the revolving banner on the first page of the Brock University website could be linked to the University Secretariat website for research centres and institutes. Professor Rempel was not sure the revolving banner would be effective, but suggested the ORS newsletter which is sent via email. Dr. Libben stated that the ORS e-newsletter is for research information and this would not be the best choice. Professor Mandigo questioned if information could be sent through email when proposals are submitted to tell people they are available online for viewing and comment. Professor Renzetti said there is a policy on what can be sent through email.

Professor Mandigo agreed to follow up with Senate to see what the options are for making this information more readily available.

Professor McCarthy called the question.

Professor Plummer and Dean Dunk left the meeting at 9:43am.

Professor Renzetti outlined the three choices set out before the committee in Faculty Handbook III:25: 4.2. a, b or c: Approval Mechanism of the Policy on the Establishment and Review of Research Centres and Institutes.

The committee unanimously recommends to Senate that the application be fully approved as outlined in Faculty Handbook III: 25:4.2.a Approval Mechanism of the Policy on the Establishment and Review of Research Centres and Institutes.

MOVED (Simandan/Mandigo)

THAT the committee recommends to Senate the full approval of the application for five years

CARRIED

Professor Renzetti abstained from voting since he is a part of the application.

7. Report from Vice-President Research

(Libben)

Professor Renzetti inquired whether there were any questions for items 1 – 3 in the VPR report and mentioned he would like to discuss item #4 regarding the items carried over from the last meeting in more depth.

Dr. Libben began his report.

1. National Context and Development

The Presidents and spokespersons of the Tricouncil agencies and CFI have all stated the importance of community in their strategic activities. CFI expressed it most clearly as “Research Builds Community”.

Dr. Libben told the committee that as of November we are now members in the Royal Society of Canada. This is an important step to ensure that Brock becomes more recognizable. The office of the Vice-President Research would like to submit three nominations for 2012 and hope to take part in the RSC’s new “Open Academy” program. This allows member institutions to apply for a small amount of funding to support research presentations with graduate students and these presentations will be held in the community.

2. Provincial Context and Developments

The Ontario universities will all contribute to a public information campaign aimed at raising awareness of university research impact. A company was hired to poll people because universities are looking to step up engagement. Dr. Libben inquired whether the committee wishes to take an active role in promoting research.

Community of Science (COS) has a new research tool called Pivot that we are subscribed to. This tool will help researchers to find new research opportunities and will help Brock to build a researcher database and embark on the policy of “grant multiplication”.

3. Brock Context and Developments

The Office of Research Services organized two conferences in November: The Canadian Association of Research Ethics Board (CAREB) Ontario and the Canadian Association of University Research Administrators (CAURA) Ontario.

Dr. Libben mentioned the Transdisciplinary Institutes committee met twice and would meet again in a day and he is hopeful that before the holidays the letters of intent would go forward. Professor Mandigo posed a question in terms of process for the letters of intent would this come to the committee. Dr. Libben replied that it is a standard procedure and the FHB guidelines will be followed.

Discussions have occurred regarding the creation of new undergraduate and graduate Transdisciplinary courses titled, “Both Sides of the Brain”. The courses would serve as a platform for research engagement at the undergraduate level, for transdisciplinarity and could be linked to monthly transdisciplinary talks that graduate students may attend. If this course is developed it could be taught by anyone on campus.

Dr. Libben attended a research café and thought the idea was great, but felt it was under attended and questioned if it were held over the lunch hour if it would be better attended. The committee

discussed that there are no consequences for not showing up at the ORS and Graduate Studies events. There does not seem to be a mechanism to ensure that accountability is required.

Dr. Libben has attended regular meetings in preparation for a possible Tri-Council monitoring visit to Brock. A new committee will be created called the Accountability, Compliance and Engagement (ACE) Advisory Committee, which will include researchers from all faculties and representatives from key administrative domains. This committee will report to the President and the Audit Committee.

Professor Mandigo requested an update on the Government Relations position. Dr. Libben informed the committee that no one had been selected.

4. Items carried over from our last meeting

Dr. Libben inquired as to the role the committee wished to play in the development of research and ways of tracking our research development in key areas related to the strategic plan.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that two sub-committees would be formed.

It was stated that the collective agreements need to be respected and as a BUFA observer on the committee, Professor Cote did not see a problem with it.

MOVED (Ventura/Kitchen)

THAT there be the creation of a committee for the Promotion of Research Excellence

CARRIED

The mandate of the Promotion of Research Excellence Sub-Committee is to identify opportunities at Brock for assisting faculty in order to enhance their research activities and outcomes and to identify the constraints impeding research activities at Brock.

Those who agreed to serve on the Promotion of Research Excellence Sub-Committee are as follows; Professor Gabriel, Dean Kitchen, Professor Miller, Professor McCarthy, Professor Simandan and Mr. Ventura.

MOVED (Renzetti/ Libben)

THAT there be the creation of a committee for Research Development

(CARRIED)

The mandate of the Research Development Sub-Committee is to identify the data and other information needed for the tracking of research activity at Brock and to develop a plan for the collection of that data.

Those who have agreed to serve on the Research Development Sub-Committee are as follows; Dean Plyley, Professor Rowsell, Professor Rempel and Professor Vlossak.

Ms. Maiden was asked to send an invitation to anyone that had not already agreed to be on either committee requesting members choose one of the committees to participate on.

The sub-committees task will be to develop a plan for the tracking of research activity and then to report back to the whole committee. This sub-committee will need to work with the Office of the Vice-President Research to gather the appropriate data and learn what is being done so the information can be used. Dr. Libben suggested that Carrie Kelly the Senior Research Coordinator from the Office of Research Services be invited to serve as well.

8. Other Business

Date of Next Meeting:
Tuesday, January 17th, 2012
10:00 – 11:30am

The above meeting will be held in the Research/Graduate Studies Boardroom (MC D350-L)

9. Adjournment

MOVED (Vlossak/Simandan)

THAT the meeting be adjourned

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am