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Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #4 (2011-12)

SENATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012, 2:00 PM

13th FLOOR BOARD ROOM

PRESENT: Professor Dan Malleck (Chair), Professor Duncan MacDonald (Vice-Chair), Dean Ejaz Ahmed, Professor Marilyn Cottrell, Interim Dean Don Cyr, Professor Bareket Falk, Professor Babak Farzad, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Professor Peter Landey, Professor James Mandigo, Ms. Courtney Phillips

ALSO

PRESENT: Professor Randy Hill, Ms. Margaret Sanderson, Dr. Philip Wright, Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

REGRETS: Mr. Cameron Alderdice, Professor Donald Brown, Professor Tony DiPetta, Ms. Laurie Morrison, Mr. Joe Robertson, Mr. John Suk

Professor Malleck welcomed member and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED (Falk/Phillips)

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

[The minutes of Meeting #3 (2011/12) held on January 24, 2012 had been circulated with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Phillips/Falk)

That the minutes of Meeting #3 (2011/12) of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee held on January 24, 2012 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Professor Malleck noted that follow-up items would be discussed later during the meeting.

4. Report of the Chair

Professor Malleck related that during the previous meeting of Senate, a discussion was held regarding the President's Report titled "Whither Pedagogy? A 'thought piece' in an era of transformative change at Brock". The Chair of Senate had asked if there would be interest in holding a separate forum to further discuss innovative pedagogy. Committee members were in favour of participating in a separate forum, and Professor Malleck would advise the Chair of Senate accordingly.

The Chair noted that he had met with Dr. Wright and Professor Nickel, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee to discuss the challenges associated with the backlog of IT Schedule 8 projects. Dr. Wright would be reporting further on Schedule 8 project requests later during the meeting

The Chair further related that there is a need to change the next meeting date. Members would be polled following today's meeting.

5. Accessibility – Council of Ontario Universities IDEa Competition (Student Competition for Innovative Design for Accessibility)

Ms. Sanderson related that the Council of Ontario Universities, in partnership with the Government of Ontario, is presenting the first annual Innovative Designs for Accessibility (IDeA) student competition. The competition is seeking to engage the creative minds of Ontario's university undergraduate students to develop innovative, cost-effective and practical solutions to accessibility-related issues in their communities. IDeA is inspired by the goal of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) to make Ontario accessible to people with disabilities by 2025.

Ms. Sanderson encouraged members to share the information which can be viewed on the COU website at <http://www.cou.on.ca/idea.aspx>.

6. ITS Schedule 8 Project Requests – Follow-up

In follow-up to the discussion held during the previous meeting, Dr. Wright provided four documents to members regarding information technology requirements as they relate to the academic programme and new work, business as usual, proposals not currently scheduled for 2011, and audio visual evergreening. The four documents would be appended to the minutes of today's meeting.

Dr. Wright reviewed the documents circulated. He requested input from the Committee with respect to the numerous ITS project requests and prioritization of projects once approved. Members engaged in a discussion regarding several of the project requests during which Dr. Wright responded to questions. It was pointed out to the Committee that Senate is being given an opportunity to participate in this decision making process which, at many other institutions, is determined by the Director of ITS.

The Committee recognized the level of complexity associated with many of the proposed requests. It was suggested to Dr. Wright that it may be beneficial to form a task force in order that broader input could be obtained from stakeholders. It was further suggested that the task force develop a strategy proposal/guiding principles to ensure that minimal requirements are supported (such as ensuring that classrooms are equipped with a computer and a projector) prior to undertaking larger and more complex projects.

7. Classroom Standards Discussion – Follow-up

In follow-up to the discussion held during the previous meeting, Professor MacDonald circulated a draft on-line poll to be sent to instructors to gain feedback regarding classroom standards and teaching requirements related to information technology and facilities management. The draft on-line poll would be appended to the minutes of today's meeting.

During discussion, Professor MacDonald received feedback and suggested changes from members with respect to the content and format of the draft poll. Dean Cyr and Ms. Sanderson offered to provide further assistance from their respective areas.

Professor MacDonald encouraged members to provide any additional comments to him following the meeting.

8. Questions (and Answers)

The Chair encouraged members to consult with colleagues and to bring forward questions that arise within the mandate of the Committee.

9. Other Business - None

10. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.