

**MINUTES OF MEETING #7 (2008 - 2009) OF THE
SENATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP POLICY COMMITTEE**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3rd, 2009 AT 1:30PM - 3:00PM

IN MC D350-L

PRESENT: Professor Gary Pickering (Chair), Ms. Melissa Barnard, Dr. Terry Boak, Professor Sandra Bosacki, Dean Ian Brindle, Mr. Robert Eagle, Professor Tamara El-Hoss (Vice-Chair), Ms. Margaret Grove, Professor Bulent Menguc, Professor Tom O'Neill, Dean Marilyn Rose, Professor Matthew Royal, Professor John Sivell, Professor Angus Smith, Ms. Judy Maiden (Recorder)

REGRETS: Mr. Hassan Khalid, Professor Tim O'Connell, Professor Lynn Rempel, Dr. Liette Vasseur

Introductions / Welcome

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED (El-Hoss/Brindle)

THAT the agenda be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOVED (Rose/ Barnard)

THAT the minutes of the #6 (2008 - 2009) Senate Research & Scholarship Policy Committee held on May 6th, 2009 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising

None

4. Reports from sub-committees

i Profile Raising

(Smith)

No report

ii Policies and Procedures

(Brindle)

No report

iii Finance

(Menguc)

No report

5. Updates and Information Items

None

6. Other Business

Professor Pickering told the committee the Senate Budget Advisory Committee was to present a report to Senate in the afternoon. There were some concerns with issues of consistency with the Academic Plan, so there will be a recommendation to see if the document presented is consistent with the Academic Plan. Dr. Pickering asked if the committee wanted to have an opportunity to discuss it. The research mandate is highlighted in 2014, but with the budget cuts to Brock Research and the Faculty of Graduate Studies it is difficult to find this reconcilable as we move to become a graduate and research intensive institute. It is uncertain how to reconcile this with a 7% budget cut. It is not clear and difficult to say how this will affect Brock Research.

Mr. Eagle said the research budget was able to absorb the cuts through the indirect costs and put together a staff to get results by 2014. They will hire four Research Officers to replace the existing Grants Facilitators who have always been on contract or soft money. The new RO's will be permanent fulltime members of the Brock Research staff and will provide support to faculty members in their applications to NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, international and provincial, CFI and CRC and will also be responsible to the faculties. The RO's will have a broader scope and will assume greater responsibilities than the current Grant Facilitators. Maureen Murphy and Hitesh Jain will assume different positions in Brock Research. Hitesh will be the Technology Transfer & Industry Liaison and Maureen will be the Research Legal Advisor.

The financial positions have been beefed up and these changes have been approved and will hopefully be filled by the middle of July. The Brock Research organizational chart has been approved and will be sent to the deans shortly. Also Brock Research has reduced two staff members by the steps taken to refocus on permanent positions from contract positions. It is believed this should make the new people more effective in their positions.

Ms. Grove mentioned the library and its role for providing support has been affected by the cuts and could have trouble supporting research over the next few years. Professor Menguc would like to see less budget cuts on researchers.

Professor Pickering wondered if the Faculty of Graduate Studies has options available to recover funds. Dean Rose said there are no sources of revenue. The income they can raise is through applications, but this depends on how many applications come in. The budget cut was managed this year because the faculties were given one time funding a few years ago and Dean Rose was able to squirrel it away through carry forward money, but the Faculty of Graduate Studies will have to live on carry forward money next year to handle an increase in The Ontario Council of Graduate Schools (OCGS). She will manage it this way for the coming year. There will be a need to cut back on other activities in support of graduate students and programs. She is not sure if it can be done again this way next year as she will not have as much money to work with and a reduced budget to help students. She will be penny pinching and reducing activities.

Dean Brindle feels these cuts should be reversible as he was mindful of making reversible cuts and assumes by 2014 we will be on good ground again. Dr. Boak mentioned the President has indicated to people to be ready to bring things forward which are in the academic plan and to not think of putting it on the back shelf believing it will not happen, but be prepared for it to happen.

Budgeting has been an agonizing process this year, but we have to move forward and not give up the direction needed to move as much as possible. It has been predicted this is not a one year cycle as costs are increasing for salaries and there will be increased costs to institutions in registration and new enrollments so it could be very difficult.

It was asked if each faculty should be cut at the same level and felt that maybe not. It was mentioned that over the last few months people have been looking at generating revenue. There are opportunities through Brock Research to move peoples' inventions out to generate revenue and this could potentially offset some of the problems the university faces.

In trying to encourage revenue generating the Faculty of Education is looking at on-line courses and is moving into online development and delivery and has increased enrollments. Revenue generation is an exciting prospect, but Dean Rose wondered if there will be a strategic distribution of the academic plan and how much money can we pull in as not all programs can generate their own income and may need to be subsidized.

Professor Pickering said the issue the Senate Budget Advisory Committee had was that we stress we are a research intensive comprehensive university, but Brock Research and Graduate Studies are absorbing the most cuts. These are supposed to be onetime cuts for these offices.

Dean Rose mentioned that the researcher database which was developed in Brock Research and had been put on-line and taken down because of problems and is down again. The searchable terms were not broad enough, but were too narrow. The committee was asked how it feels about the importance of the university database. It is useful for external people to find internal people to make connections and also for graduate students to find mentors, but Mr. Eagle said the database is still a work in progress.

The research office is looking at its communication strategy to determine who it wants to talk to and what mechanisms can be used to communicate its message. When Process Pathways is in place it will make it easier to track data and when the research website is up and functional this will help as well. The hope is a database will identify needs for partnerships inside the university. Process Pathways and the web site will help to manage the research portfolio. They will have useful information and it will be updated with information which is more useful to researchers.

Professor Pickering expressed thanks to the Chairs of the subcommittees and congratulations to Tamara El-Hoss who will take over as Chair in September.

Date of Next Meeting:

TBD (September)

7. Adjournment (O'Neill /Royal)

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:20pm