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MINUTES OF MEETING #573 (2009-10)

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009, 3:00 PM

DR. CHARLES A. SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor John Sivell (Chair), Professor Susan Sydor (Vice-Chair), Dean Ian Brindle, Dean John Corlett, Ms. Barb Davis, Dean Thomas Dunk, Dean Rosemary Hale, Mr. Rudi Kroeker, Mr. Rob Lanteigne, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Dean Marilyn Rose, Interim Dean Barbara Sainty, Dr. Liette Vasseur, Dr. Thomas Winger, Dr. Philip Wright

Professors Tansu Barker, June Corman, Christine Daigle, Tamara El-Hoss, Sandra Felton, Murray Kropf, Renee Kuchapski, Kelly Lockwood, Diane Mack, Ingrid Makus, Dan Malleck, James Mandigo, Roberto Nickel, Tom O'Neill, Frances Owen, Richard Parker, Michael Plyley, Stan Sadava, Cristina Santos, Larry Savage, Astride Silis, Mark Spencer, David Vivian, Michelle Webber, Barry Wright, Deborah Yeager-Woodhouse, Paul Zelisko, Deborah Zinni

Mr. Roland Acha, Ms. Tabasum Akseer, Mr. Ryan Klamot, Mr. Sebastian Prins, Ms. Carly White

Mr. Bill Rickers

Mr. Mike Farrell, Secretary, Ms. Margaret Thompson, Associate Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Patrick Beard

REGRETS: Mr. Will Crothers, Professor Nancy DeCourville, Dr. Greg Finn, Ms. Jessica Gallagher, Mr. Ned Goodman, Ms. Margaret Grove, Dean James Heap, Professor Nota Klentrou, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Professor Maureen Lux, Professor Herb MacKenzie, Ms. Kim Meade, Mr. Kevin Smith, Professor R. Angus Smith, Mr. Bruce Wormald

Professor Sivell welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Senate Orientation (2009-10) held on September 9, 2009 and the minutes of the 572nd meeting of Senate held on September 23, 2009 had been posted with the meeting materials.

MOVED (Brindle/Owen)

THAT the minutes of the meeting of Senate Orientation (2009-10) held on September 9, 2009 be approved.

CARRIED

MOVED (Plyley/Sainty)

THAT the minutes of the 572nd meeting of Senate held on September 23, 2009 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Chair noted that the two documents mentioned by Dr. Knuttila during the previous meeting of Senate, namely "2009-10 Academic Year Conversation and Action Item List" and "Provost Plan – Moving Brock 2014 Forward" had been posted on the website of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic. (http://www.brocku.ca/vp-academic/administration/pvp_academic). As well, the reports had been posted on the Secretariat website with the materials for the meeting of Senate 572.

3. Communications - None

4. Report of the Chair

Prior to presenting the Senate highlights, Professor Sivell extended an invitation to the Faculty Deans to expand on any of the highlights within their areas. As well, highlights to be included in future reports to Senate may be forwarded to Mr. Farrell.

The following highlights were shared:

- The Ontario Universities Fair was held from September 25-27 at the Metro Convention Centre, Toronto. The event was well attended and Brock's new marketing initiatives were well received.
- Fall Convocation ceremonies would be held on Saturday, October 17 during which Dan Patterson, President of Niagara College, would be presented with an honorary degree.

- The President's first town hall meeting of the academic year would be held on October 23 at 8:30 a.m. in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre.
- Melanie Pilkington, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry, has been renewed as the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Novel Hybrid Materials. She has received a five-year renewal of funding and secured her place in Canada as a leading researcher in inorganic chemistry.
- Brock University's Niagara Community Observatory (NCO) launched its latest policy brief "Seniors in Niagara: Creating Age-Friendly Communities".
- On October 3, representatives from the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences toured Brock as part of the University's bid to host the 2014 Congress.
- An exhibit by Professor Bill Ralph titled "Through the Lens of Mathematics" is being presented at the A Mano Libera Gallery in downtown St. Catharines from October 17 to November 8.
- An nGen project "1812: Interactive Niagara" led by Associate Professor Kevin Kee, Canada Research Chair in Digital Humanities, received a funding grant of $54,300 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to expand the project.
- Stephen Cheung, Associate Professor, Physical Education and Kinesiology, and Canada Research Chair in Environmental Ergonomics, officially opened his unique North American lab at Brock which focuses on developing protective clothing to help people survive extreme temperatures.
- The Faculty of Graduate Studies recently held its annual orientation for graduate students.
- The Shinerama team continues its campaign until December in hopes of reaching $40,000. The funds are being donated to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

5. Report of the President and Vice-Chancellor

The President noted that he had one item of information to report to Senate orally.

The Executive Heads of the Council of Ontario Universities are currently discussing its response to the government regarding policy options for the development of a new multi-year operating funding plan for post-secondary institutions (subsequent to the "Reaching Higher" plan). The President provided a comprehensive overview of the strategies being examined in an effort to meet the needs of individual institutions, our students and our communities, while addressing numerous challenges including those associated with funding and the projected increase in student enrolment.

During the ensuing discussion, the President responded to questions from Senators. It was further noted that the Ontario government had appointed Ms. Leah Myers to assist with developing the policy framework for the new plan. Ms. Myers formerly served as President of Durham College and then led the secretariat that supported the Postsecondary Review conducted by former Premier Bob Rae.

6. Report of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic

The Chair noted that Dr. Knuttila was away from the University. He called on Mr. Beard who then provided a presentation to Senate regarding the results of the 2009 Canadian University Survey Consortium (CUSC) Survey.

7. Report of the Academic Colleague - COU - None

8. Report of the Actions of the Board of Trustees
[A Brief of the Board meeting held September 24, 2009 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

The Report of the Actions of the Board of Trustees had been posted for the information of Senate.

9. Unfinished Business from the Last Meeting - None

10. Approval of Graduands – Fall 2009 Convocation
[A Report from the Registrar dated October 5, 2009, together with a statistical summary of the number of undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates to be conferred during Fall 2009 Convocation had been posted with the meeting materials.]

The Chair referred members to the Report from the Registrar.

MOVED (Hale/Sainty)

THAT the Fall Convocation 2009 Degrees be approved as outlined in the Report.

CARRIED

11. Reports of Standing Committees

11.1 Undergraduate Program Committee
[The Report of the Undergraduate Program Committee dated October 14, 2009 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Mandigo presented the Report which contained changes to the course bank for the information of Senate.

11.2 Governance Committee
[The Report of the Governance Committee dated October 8, 2009 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sadava presented the Report.

a) Proposed Amendment to FHB II: 11 – Professor Emeritus

MOVED (Sadava/ Plyley)

THAT Faculty Handbook II: 11 Professor Emeritus be amended as proposed.

Professor Sadava reviewed the rationale for the proposed recommendation as outlined in the Report. Professor Webber questioned the impetus for the proposed changes, noting that when the current policy was approved in 2004, it had been reported that it was consistent with the policies/practises of the majority of other universities that had been surveyed. She related that she had recently surveyed 16 universities and 12 confer the title automatically.

Professor Sadava responded that the designation of Professor Emeritus is an honorary designation, one that has been earned by assuming the status of full professor and would have benefits to both parties. There may be cases in which the University or the designee would not see this in their interest and the proposed changes would allow for exceptional cases.

The proposed process in which the President is given the discretion to offer the honorific designation following consultation with the Governance Committee was questioned. It was further expressed that the honorary designation ought to be approved by Senate.

In light of the information presented and questions raised, Professor Savage suggested that the motion be referred back to the Governance Committee for reconsideration.

MOVED (Savage/Webber)

THAT the proposed recommendation to amend Faculty Handbook II: 11 Professor Emeritus be referred back to the Governance Committee for its reconsideration and that the Governance Committee report to Senate no later than the Senate meeting to be held in February 2010.

During further discussion, it was noted that the current policy would stay in effect; however, the President indicated that he would postpone issuing letters for acceptance of the honorific designation until the matter had been resolved.

CARRIED

b) For the Information of Senate – Ontario Quality Assurance Framework

Information regarding the Committee's discussion of the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework consultation draft and next steps had been included in the Report.

c) For the Information of Senate – Advisory Committee Nominations

An update regarding nominations for positions on Advisory Committees had been included in the Report.

12. Other Business

12.1 Student Awards

[A Report from the Manager, Student Awards dated October 1, 2009 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

The Report which contained the names of the recipients of the Governor General's Silver Medals and of the Spirit of Brock Medallists to be awarded during the 2009 Fall Convocation ceremonies had been distributed for information.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.