

## **Brock University Senate**

#### MINUTES OF MEETING #2 (2009-10)

#### SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009, 12:00 NOON

13<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR BOARD ROOM, SCHMON TOWER

PRESENT: Professor Paul Zelisko (Chair), Professor Frances Owen (Vice-Chair),

Professor James Allard, Dean John Corlett, Dr. Greg Finn, Professor Nancy Francis,

Ms. Margaret Grove, Professor Barry Joe, Professor Julian Kitchen,

Professor Diane Mack, Ms. Ellen Robb, Dean Marilyn Rose, Professor John Sivell,

Ms. Carly White

Ms. Jill Grose, Ms. Margaret Thompson, Administrative Support

REGRETS: Professor Roberto Nickel, Dr. Philip Wright

Professor Zelisko welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

## 1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of Meeting #1 (2009-10) held on October 6, 2009 had been distributed with the meeting materials.

**MOVED** (Owen/Francis)

THAT the minutes of Meeting #1 (2009-10) held on October 6, 2009 be approved.

**CARRIED** 

- 2. Business Arising from the Minutes None
- 3. **Report of the Chair** None

### 4. BOOST Program – Update

[Information regarding the BOOST Program dated October 5, 2009 was circulated during the meeting.]

Dr. Finn referred members to the circulated document and provided a comprehensive overview of BOOST (Brock Offering Opportunities for Successful Turnaround), an alternative program

to academic suspension for students. As outlined in the document, students who participated in the program provided positive feedback.

During discussion, Dr. Finn responded to questions and received feedback from members.

The Committee recognized the importance of this unique program and commended the staff of the Student Development Centre for their hard work and support.

## 5. Scheduling of Classes for Pedagogical Reasons

Professor Zelisko related that during a meeting of the Senate Governance Committee with the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Secretaries of Senate Committees, a question regarding how requests are handled for the scheduling of lecture/classroom space due to pedagogical reasons was directed to the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee. Professor Zelisko had contacted the Registrar who reported that efforts are underway to resolve issues, including the examination of a new software package, and to assist with the processing of the requests within the University's limited space capacities.

During discussion, a question arose regarding configuration differences when using PowerPoint in various classrooms. The matter would be referred to the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee for consideration. As well, Ms. Grose noted that she would bring the matter forward to the Educational Technology Advisory Group (ETAG).

## 6. Potential Exemptions from Academic Work for Brock Athletes Competing at Events

The Chair noted that a question had arisen with respect to the process of accommodating student athletes competing at events. Professor Sivell noted that he had raised the issue as he had only recently been presented with requests from student athletes and was unaware of any existing protocols. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

During discussion, it was noted that student athletes are made aware, as outlined in the Athlete Handbook, that is it their responsibility to ensure that their instructors are advised of conflicts as soon as they are known. There is an Academic Conflict form for athletes to fill out and return to the instructor, however, many instructors, specifically those within the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, who are more familiar with student athletes, may not require the written form. Members present who had received and granted these requests recognized the professionalism of the student athletes and fully supported their endeavours while recognizing the importance of fairness among all students. It was noted that such accommodations often included early writing of an exam, re-weighting, or on-line learning.

It was further noted that students also may require academic accommodations for non-athletic events where they would be representing Brock University such as at a conference or for service learning activities within the community. It was noted that as there may be differences within Faculties, Departments, and individual instructors, it may be beneficial to develop university-wide best practices regarding academic accommodations for student absence. The Committee concurred that feedback first be sought from the Chairs and Directors to determine

if there are anomalies and/or a need to develop best practices. Dean Corlett concurred that he would bring the matter forward through the Committee on Academic Deans.

Due to a previous commitment, Dr. Finn retired from the remainder of the meeting.

## 7. Standing Reports

### 7.1 Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies

Ms. Grose provided an oral updated which included the following:

- Brock's annual Tribute to Teaching would be held on December 4 at 3:30 p.m. in Alphie's Trough and would include a presentation from Professor John McNamara, the recipient of the 2008 Brock University Award for Distinguished Teaching. Members were encouraged to attend.
- Professor Paul Zelisko had recently opened his classroom for a demonstration of clicker technology (audience response system). A representative from TurningPoint would be coming to campus and interested faculty members were encouraged to contact the CTLET for further details.
- Twelve Brock faculty members are in the running for TVO's Bid Ideas 2010 Best Lecturer competition including Committee member, Professor James Allard.
- Numerous workshops and seminars have been scheduled for the future and can be viewed at <a href="http://www.brocku.ca/ctlet">http://www.brocku.ca/ctlet</a>

#### 7.2 Library

Ms. Grove provided an oral update which included the following:

- The latest issue of the Library Newsletter is available at http://issuu.com/brocklibrary/.
- A Brock press release dated November 24, 2009 highlights a grant from Cultural Spaces Canada to upgrade the physical facilities in Special Collections & Archives <a href="http://www.brocku.ca/news/6612">http://www.brocku.ca/news/6612</a>
- The Library recently received a grant of more than \$55,000 from the Department of Canadian Heritage to digitize War of 1812 materials in conjunction with local heritage partners. The total value of the project exceeds \$100,000.
- The Library's new silent study room on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor is well used and appreciated by students.
- The digital art wall at the south entrance of the Learning Commons will be completed shortly.
- Roughly \$90,000 of journal subscriptions were cancelled recently for budgetary reasons.

#### 7.3 Information Technology Services - None

8. Other Business

# It was suggested that the Committee receive an update on the progress to date with respect to the development of degree learning expectations. Professor Zelisko would contact Dr. Finn and ask him to provide an update at the next meeting.

## 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.