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Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #3 (2009-10)

SENATE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009, 2:00 PM

13TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

PRESENT: Professor Richard Parker (Chair), Professor Tansu Barker (Vice-Chair), Mr. Will Crothers, Dean James Heap, Professor Nota Klentrou, Professor James Mandigo, Professor Felice Martinello, Professor Stan Sadava, Professor Susan Sydor, Professor Paul Zelisko

Ms. Karen Epp, Ms. Joanne McKee, Mr. Steven Pillar, Dr. Liette Vasseur, Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

REGRETS: Ms. Nadie Akseer, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Interim Dean Barbara Sainty, Professor David Vivian

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on November 4, 2009 had been distributed with the meeting materials.

MOVED (Zelisko/Barker)

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee held on November 4, 2009 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Report of the Chair - None

3. Follow-up – Presentation to the Brock Budget Committee re: Ideas for Closing the Funding Gap

Professor Parker noted that in keeping with the motion passed at the previous Committee meeting on November 4, he had sent a Report to Senate 573 held November 18, 2009 and invited Senators to provide feedback regarding ideas for closing the funding gap. Professor Parker reported that he had received one communication which suggested that the University cancel all pending Associate Dean positions and that administrative positions not be replaced.

He questioned how the Committee wished to proceed with respect to the invitation to the Budget Advisory Committee to present to the University Budget Committee.

A comprehensive discussion ensued during which several comments and suggestions were proposed, including the following:

- It was important for Senate to provide feedback.
- Committee could formalize a statement, seek approval of Senate, and then forward to the University Budget Committee; potential to include a list of what Senate does not want cut.
- Many faculty members are not trained regarding revenue-generation; need to share ideas among faculty to stimulate revenue-generation in other areas.
- Some Faculties/Departments cannot reduce budgets any further; disadvantaged units are getting more disadvantaged.
- Must look at investing in the development of new pedagogies and different models to increase efficiency.
- Senate's role is to protect the academic mission.
- There may be potential to increase savings by utilizing on-line course evaluations.
- Information Technology should not be treated as an administrative unit, as it was the previous year, as academics depend on IT.
- The next report regarding BRAM is expected in March 2010.
- Principles to guide this year's process would be similar to last year.
- The Committee could present a written report to the University Budget Committee in the new year in order to provide additional time to generate more ideas.

Following discussion, it was

MOVED (Barker/Sadava)

That the Budget Advisory Committee's presentation to the University Budget Committee be postponed to a later time.

CARRIED

4. Mid-Year Budget Review 2009-10

[An Information Item to the Financial Planning, Audit and Human Resources Committee *TOPIC: Mid-Year Budget Review 2009-10* dated November 23, 2009, together with Appendix 1: Brock University Operating Budget, had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

The item was deferred due to time constraints.

5. Other Business - None

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.