



Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #575 (2009-10)

**SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 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, Dr. Greg Finn, Ms. Margaret Grove, Dean Rosemary Hale, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Mr. Rudi Kroeker, Mr. Rob Lanteigne, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Ms. Kim Meade, Dean Marilyn Rose, Interim Dean Barbara Sainty, Dr. Philip Wright

Professors Tansu Barker, Christine Daigle, Nancy DeCourville, Tamara El-Hoss, Sandra Felton, Nota Klentrou, Murray Kropf, Renee Kuchapski, Maureen Lux, Diane Mack, Herb MacKenzie, Ingrid Makus, Dan Malleck, James Mandigo, Roberto Nickel, Tom O'Neill, Frances Owen, Richard Parker, Michael Plyley, Cristina Santos, Larry Savage, Astride Silis, R. Angus Smith, Mark Spencer, David Vivian, Michelle Webber, Barry Wright, Deborah Yeager-Woodhouse, Paul Zelisko, Deborah Zinni

Mr. Roland Acha, Ms. Tabasum Akseer, Mr. Will Crothers, Mr. Sebastian Prins, Ms. Carly White

Mr. Bill Rickers, Mr. Bruce Wormald

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Mr. Patrick Beard, Professor Leah Bradshaw, Ms. Fran Chandler, Associate Dean Jane Koustas, Ms. Beth Natale, Professor Brian Power

REGRETS: Professor June Corman, Ms. Jessica Gallagher, Mr. Ned Goodman, Dean James Heap, Mr. Ryan Klamot, Professor Kelly Lockwood, Professor Stan Sadava, Mr. Kevin Smith, Dr. Liette Vasseur

Professor Sivell welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the 574<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate held on November 18, 2009 had been posted with the meeting materials.

**MOVED** (Finn/Kroeker)

**THAT the minutes of the 574<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate held on November 18, 2009 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes - None**

**3. Communications**

[A memorandum to the Chair of Senate from the Secretary of Senate dated January 14, 2010 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sivell referred members to the memorandum from the Secretary of Senate regarding the 2010 Senate election.

**MOVED** (Sainty/O'Neill)

**THAT the election of representatives to fill Senate vacancies occurring at the end of Spring Convocation, with the exception of student representatives, take place on Friday, March 26, 2010.**

**CARRIED**

**4. Report of the Chair**

[The Highlights for Senate 575 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sivell noted that International Services is organizing Brock's fundraising effort to raise money for the Canadian Red Cross in support of the relief efforts in Haiti.

Senators were referred to the Highlights for Senate 575 which had been linked to the agenda. He encouraged members to review the numerous accomplishments in the academic community and to bring the achievements to the attention of others.

**5. Report of the President and Vice-Chancellor**

[The President's Report dated December 7, 2009 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

The President referred members to his written Report dated December 7, 2009 and provided an oral update.

With respect to the University's funding request of \$26.1 million to the provincial government in support of the move of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts to downtown St. Catharines as part of a larger integrated project with the City of St. Catharines, the President reported that recent changes in the Ontario government cabinet have added to the delay of a response. If approved, the funding would come from the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure on the recommendation of the MTCU and there have been three Ministers of Energy and Infrastructure within the past eight to ten weeks.

Dr. Lightstone added that the University's case remains solid and he is confident that the project will be funded.

The President further noted that the MTCU has related that information regarding the potential "Reaching Higher II" program will not be known until the provincial budget is announced in the spring.

A discussion ensued during which the President, the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice President Student Services, and the Registrar responded to questions and expanded on graduate student funding, undergraduate enrolment targets, potential initiatives to increase BIUs from existing enrolments, and application rates. While there was a slight decline in application activity, Ms. Meade ascertained that she was confident that the University will meet its target without compromising admission averages.

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

[A Report from the Provost and Vice-President Academic dated January 7, 2010 together with a Policy on Surveys dated December 17, 2009 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Dr. Knuttila provided a brief oral update which included information regarding the three decanal searches currently underway. He also noted that consultations would soon commence with academic units as part of the process in the development of strategic plan that will serve as a context for the academic plan *Brock 2014*. Dr. Knuttila noted that he would also consult with Senate Committees.

Members were referred to the proposed Survey Policy that had been distributed for the information of Senate. Dr. Knuttila expressed thanks to Mr. Beard for his support in the development of the policy. As outlined in the cover Report, the main intent of the policy is to assist in the coordination of the administration of surveys.

In response to a question from Mr. Kroeker, Dr. Knuttila indicated that should the Board of Trustees adopt a policy requesting the Survey Management Committee to provide recommendations regarding the distribution of surveys to Board members, the Committee would be pleased to assist.

During discussion, it was suggested that, as the Survey Policy included surveys related to research, it would be prudent for the Senate Research and Scholarship Policy Committee to be provided an opportunity to review the Survey Policy.

**MOVED** (Plyley/Barker)

**That the proposed Survey Policy be referred to the Senate Research and Scholarship Policy Committee for review.**

**CARRIED**

**7. Report of the Academic Colleague - COU**

[The Academic Colleague's Report dated January 14, 2010, together with a COU Update dated December 11, 2009, had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Dean Rose referred members to her written Report which included a COU Update. With respect to the Committee Members' Update within the Report, she noted that there was new information with respect to applications. Dean Heap had requested it be reported to Senate that while consecutive teaching applications are down 3.4% overall, Brock University's applications are up 6.4%.

**8. Report of the Actions of the Board of Trustees**

[A Brief from the Board of Trustees' meeting held December 3, 2009 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sivell referred members to the Board Brief. During a brief discussion, Mr. Kroeker responded to a question related to the appointment term of the external auditors. He further noted that the presentations from Faculty Deans during the Board meetings were extremely informative and of value to Trustees.

**9. Unfinished Business from the Last Meeting - None****10. Reports of Standing Committees****10.1 Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee**

[The Report of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee to Senate 575 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Malleck presented the Report for the information of Senate. He provided an overview of the main issues discussed, as detailed in the Report, with respect to the impact of construction noise and interruptions on adjacent units, the process of consultation prior to construction and 24-hour study space. Mr. Rob Lanteigne, along with the other members of the 24-Hour Study Space Task Force, Mr. Prins, Dr. Wright and Professor Vivian, were thanked for their support.

**10.2 Teaching and Learning Policy Committee**

[The Report of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee dated January 13, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Zelisko presented the Report for the information of Senate. He provided an overview of the main issues discussed and/or under consideration by the Committee, as detailed in the Report, with respect to the Brock Offering Opportunities for Successful Turnaround (BOOST) program, academic accommodations for student absence when representing the University at external events, and degree level expectations. The Committee extended its appreciation to all those involved in the development of the BOOST program, and in particular to the Student Development Centre.

**10.3 Graduate Studies Committee**

[The Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated January 14, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Klentrou presented the Report of the Graduate Studies Committee.

a) New Graduate Program PhD in Humanities

**MOVED** (Klentrou/Hale)

**THAT Senate approve the proposal for the new graduate program PhD in Humanities and that it be forwarded to OCGS for review and approval.**

Professor Klentrou expanded on the development of the new Interdisciplinary PhD in Humanities. During discussion Professor Klentrou, Professor Koustas and Dean Rose responded to questions.

**CARRIED**

**10.4 Undergraduate Program Committee**

[The Report of the Undergraduate Program Committee to Senate 575 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Mandigo presented the Report of the Undergraduate Program Committee.

a) Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Undergraduate Course Bank

Professor Mandigo provided an overview of the rigorous review process undertaken by the Undergraduate Program Committee prior to bringing forward recommendations to Senate.

Senators were referred to the 43 motions contained within the Report. The Chair questioned if Senate would prefer to consider all motions as an omnibus motion. Mr. Lanteigne requested, and Senate concurred, that item 8 regarding Nursing be addressed separately due to the proposed elimination of seminars due to budget cuts.

**MOVED** (Mandigo/Daigle)

**THAT the motions as contained in items 1-7 and 9-25 of the Report be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** (Mandigo/Sainty)

**THAT the changes in the program notes for the Department of Nursing as outlined in pages 25-27 and the changes in the course bank as outlined in pages 25 and 27-32 be approved.**

A comprehensive discussion ensued regarding the proposed elimination of seminars, as outlined in the Report, which are a result of budgetary constraints and not due to pedagogical reasons.

Dean Corlett provided a detailed rationale regarding the proposed changes to the Nursing Program. With respect to the restructuring, he emphasized that careful consideration had been taken to maintain the quality of the program and preserve the accreditation standards.

During deliberations, Senators expressed concerns regarding the elimination of seminars due to budget cutbacks, the impact on teaching assistant positions for graduate students, and discussed the overall commitment to the seminar system and small group learning. With respect to teaching assistant positions within the Nursing Program, it was noted that mainly professional clinical instructors are utilized through collaborative partners, such as registered nurses.

A point of information was raised regarding the implications of a negative vote for the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Department of Nursing. The Chair responded that it was his understanding that the recommendation would be referred back to the Department of Nursing for further consideration regarding the rationale for the submission.

In response to a call for the question, a point of order was raised that the call for the question does not automatically stop debate. The Chair ruled that the point of order was well taken. The Chair questioned, and it was confirmed by a show of hands, that Senate was ready to vote on the motion.

It was requested, and Senate concurred, that a recorded vote be taken.

**QUESTION** on the motion

**CARRIED**

(23 in favour / 15 opposed / 8 abstentions)

Dr. Lightstone requested, and the Chair concurred, that he be allowed to provide additional comments. During the President's remarks, a point of order was raised that as the matter had been dealt with and the motion was passed, no further discussion was necessary and it was requested that the Chair move to the next agenda item. The Chair noted that, while he would move on to the next agenda item, the debate had been long and difficult and if the additional remarks added background information, it had been relevant.

### **10.5 Governance Committee**

[The Report of the Governance Committee dated January 14, 2010, together with Appendix A: Quality Assurance Planning Committee – Update #4 dated January 8, 2010, had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Felton presented the Report of the Governance Committee.

- a) Nomination of the Bailiff of Guernsey as Honorary Chair of Senate during Spring 2010 Convocation

**MOVED** (Felton/Parker)

**THAT the Bailiff of Guernsey, Sir Geoffrey Rowland, be nominated as Honorary Chair of Senate during the Spring 2010 Convocation ceremonies that he would attend and that he carry the Mace in leading the Chancellor's procession.**

**CARRIED**

- b) Appointment of Senate Election Scrutineers

**MOVED** (Felton/El-Hoss)

**THAT Senators Susan Sydor and Cristina Santos be appointed as scrutineers for the Senate election to be held March 26, 2010.**

**CARRIED**

- c) Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee

**MOVED** (Felton/Klentrou)

**THAT FHB II: 9.12.1 – Terms of Reference of the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee be amended to state that a report from the Vice-President, Research be a standing item on each Committee agenda.**

In response to a question, Professor Felton noted that the Governance Committee had concurred that it was more appropriate for the Report of the Vice-President, Research to come to Senate through a Committee. The Chair of the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee had been consulted and agreed with the proposed recommendation.

**CARRIED**

- d) In camera Items

**MOVED** (Daigle/Kroeker)

**THAT Senate move *in camera*.**

**CARRIED**

Senate moved *in camera* at 4:50 p.m. Non-Senators retired from the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Senate resumed **open** session at 5:08 p.m.

[During the *in camera* session, Senate considered confidential reports and passed confidential recommendations.]

e) For the Information of Senate – Update on the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework

The update on the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework had been included in the Report for the information of Senate.

**11. Other Business - None**

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.