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**Brock University Senate**

MINUTES OF MEETING #4 (2009-10)

**SENATE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010, 11:00 AM

13<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR BOARD ROOM

PRESENT: Professor Richard Parker (Chair), Professor Tansu Barker (Vice-Chair),  
Dr. Greg Finn, Professor Nota Klentrou, Professor Felice Martinello,  
Professor Astrid Silis, Professor Susan Sydor, Professor David Vivian,  
Professor Barry Wright, Professor Paul Zelisko

Ms. Joanne McKee, Mr. Steven Pillar, Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative  
Support)

REGRETS: Ms. Nadie Akseer, Mr. Will Crothers, Dean James Heap,  
Professor James Mandigo, Professor Stan Sadava, Interim Dean Barbara Sainty

**1. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on December 1, 2010 had been distributed with the meeting materials.

**MOVED** (Zelisko/Sydor)

**THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee held on December 1, 2010 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**2. Report of the Chair**

Professor Parker noted that in addition to the memorandums posted with the agenda materials from the Undergraduate Program Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee, a memo from the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies was just received.

**3. Planning for the 2010-11 Budget**

Mr. Pillar provided an oral update with respect to the 2010-11 budget development. He reminded members that last year the Board of Trustees adopted a multi-year budget plan

involving revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions to reach a balanced budget by the end of fiscal 2013-14.

Mr. Pillar indicated that in light of the results of the mid-year budget review, the on-going revenue enhancement or savings target for 2010-11 would be proposed at 2% rather than 5% as set and achieved in 2009-10. He reviewed the rationale for the reduction to a 2% budget exercise which included assumptions regarding government funding, enrolment, improved retention rates as a result of the BOOST program, and additional pedagogical or operational innovations. The focus this year would remain on revenue enhancement.

A comprehensive discussion ensued, during which Mr. Pillar, Ms. McKee, and Dr. Finn addressed questions and received feedback from members. Issues discussed included: implications regarding across-the-board percentage targets, increased spring/summer enrolments, decreased applications and budget management, incoming averages, alternate service delivery, and initiatives to generate revenue.

#### **4. Administration's Plan to Rescind Humanities Language Requirement**

It was agreed that the item be deferred in order to allow for the consideration of the next agenda item within the timeframe of the meeting.

#### **5. Communication from the Undergraduate Program Committee**

[A memorandum to the Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee from Members of the Undergraduate Program Committee dated January 28, 2010 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

The Chair noted that on behalf of Professor Mandigo, Chair of the Undergraduate Program Committee, Professor Wright and Professor Silis were in attendance.

Professor Silis provided an overview of the detailed memorandum from the Undergraduate Program Committee which emphasized the need to ensure that the well-being and reputation of the University as it pertains to the Undergraduate Curriculum is considered in all current and future budget deliberations.

In response to a suggestion from the Chair, it was moved by Professor Sydor, seconded by Professor Vivian and carried, that the meeting be extended by an additional five minutes.

During further discussion, members were referred to the memorandums submitted from the Graduate Studies Committee and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies regarding the budget strategy and the impact on the quality of graduate programs and graduate student funding.

It was concurred that on behalf of the Undergraduate Program Committee, the Graduate Studies Committee and other Senate Committees expected to submit budget input to the BAC, that one synthesized report be developed and submitted to Senate. It was

suggested that the report include the academic priorities to be considered during the budget process and input regarding the budget strategy.

The Chair suggested, and members concurred, that the next meeting on March 2, 2010 be scheduled for two hours. Members would be polled for their availability.

**6. Communication from the Graduate Studies Committee**

[A memo to the Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee from the Chair of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee dated February 2, 2010 had been distributed prior to the meeting. A memo to the Committee from the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies was circulated at the outset of the meeting.]

The memorandums were received for information and had been considered during the previous agenda item.

**7. Other Business - None**

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.