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MINUTES OF MEETING #563 (2008-09)

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008, 3:00 PM

DR. CHARLES A. SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Maureen Connolly (Chair), Professor John Sivell (Vice-Chair), Dr. Terry Boak, Dr. Ian Brindle, Ms. Barb Davis, Dean Thomas Dunk, Dr. Greg Finn, Dean James Heap, Mr. David Howes, Interim Dean Anna Lathrop, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Ms. Kim Meade, Dean Marilyn Rose, Interim Dean Barbara Sainty, Dr. Thomas Winger

Professors Tansu Barker, Irene Blayer, May Bletz, Dr. Karen Bordonaro, Professors Rick Cheel, Christine Daigle, Tamara El-Hoss, Nota Klentrou, Murray Kropf, Phillip Mackintosh, Jamie Mandigo, Jane McLeod, Carol Merriam, Merijean Morrissey, Roberto Nickel, Tom O'Neill, Frances Owen, Michael Plyley, Virginia Reh, Adonis Skandalis, R. Angus Smith, Garth Stevenson, Susan Sydor, Michelle Webber, Murray Wickett, Barry Wright, Paul Zelisko

Ms. Melissa Barnard, Ms. Lianne Bradley, Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Will Crothers, Mr. Ryan Klamot

Ms. Joy Rogers

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Patrick Beard, Ms. Beth Natale

REGRETS**:** Professors Tony DiPetta, Nancy Francis, Mr. Ned Goodman, Ms. Margaret Grove, Dean Rosemary Hale, Ms. Sheryl Huff, Mr. Hassan Kahlid, Mr. Rob Lanteigne, Mr. Roelof Makken, Professor Dan Malleck, Mr. Kurtis McCartney, Interim Dean Joffre Mercier, Professors Gary Pickering, Kirill Samokhin, Louis Volante, Dr. Philip Wright

Professor Connolly welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 562nd meeting of Senate held on October 15, 2008 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.

MOVED (Cheel/Merriam)

THAT the minutes of the 562nd meeting of Senate held on October 15, 2008 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes - None

3. Communications - None

4. Report of the Chair

Professor Connolly, noting the resignation of Mr. Christopher Lindley, introduced and extended a welcome to the new undergraduate student Senator, Mr. Will Crothers.

Committee Chairs were reminded to forward to either Professor Connolly or Professor Cheel their Committee's suggestions regarding ways to recognize service to Senate. The Governance Committee would discuss the matter at its next meeting and present its report to Senate on December 10, 2008.

The Chair presented the following highlights for the information of Senate:

- Five Brock University researchers were awarded provincial funding for their innovative and groundbreaking research through the Ministry of Research and Innovation: Professors Stephen Cheung, Vincenzo De Luca, Veena Dwivedi, Elizabeth Greene and Kevin Kee
- Dr. Marilyn Walker recently donated $15 million, the largest donation the University has ever received, to Brock University's School of Fine and Performing Arts. The School has been renamed the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.
- The Matheson Learning Commons officially opened on Sunday, October 26, 2008;
- The finalists from Brock for the fifth annual Best Lecturer Competition include: Professors James Allard, Tauri Caputo, Santo D'Agostino, Patrick Ounlert, Harry Peery, Mario Pizzacalla, Murray Wickett and Phil Wilson
- The Brock University women's soccer team captured the Silver Medal at the Canadian Intervarsity Sport National Championship Final.
- Senator Paul Zelisko, and his wife, recently welcomed the arrival of their first son.

5. Report of the President and Vice-Chancellor

[The President's Report dated November 10, 2008 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

Dr. Lightstone referred members to his Report and expanded on the importance of the naming of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in honour of Marilyn's most extraordinary and generous gift to the University.

The President then reviewed the sections of his report regarding Brock and the economic situation. He emphasized that academic planning would continue to proceed. During a brief

discussion, he responded to questions.

It was suggested, and concurred, that the President's Report be forwarded to Deans, Directors and Chairs to share with all members of their units for information.

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

Dr. Boak noted that with respect to the University's academic plan *Brock 2014: Knowledge, Engagement, Transformation*, a report regarding programs costs and challenges was currently being developed and would soon be forwarded to the President and to the Board of Trustees in the new year. Once finalized, the report would be presented to Senate for information.

With respect to senior administrative searches, Dr. Boak provided an update on searches currently underway and/or commencing soon.

For information, it was noted that prior to replacing or hiring a new faculty or staff member at the University, the position would be reviewed.

7. Report of the Academic Colleague - COU

[The Academic Colleague's Report dated November 13, 2008, together with a COU Academic Colleagues Working Paper entitled *Learning Disabilities: a Guide for Faculty at Ontario Universities* had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

Dean Rose referred members to her written Report. She drew Senators' attention to the COU Academic Colleague's Working Paper *Learning Disabilities: A Guide for Faculty at Ontario Universities* and expanded on the discussions held by the academic colleagues and executive heads.

It was suggested that Senate Committees (such as the Undergraduate Program Committee, Undergraduate Student Affairs, Graduate Studies Committee and the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee) and the Office of Student Services further examine the Working Paper, in consultation with Margaret Sanderson, Accessibility Coordinator, with respect to Brock's policy on Academic Accommodations Process for Students with disABILITIES. (FHB III: 5.3).
Dean Rose encouraged members to provide feedback to her regarding the working paper and/or any other matter within the written report which she would then share with the Academic Colleagues.

8. Report of the Actions of the Board of Trustees

There was no meeting held since the previous meeting of Senate.

9. Unfinished Business from the Last Meeting - None

10. Reports of Standing Committees

10.1 Teaching and Learning Policy Committee

[The Report of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee dated November 13, 2008 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

Professor Zelisko presented the Report of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee. He provided a brief overview of the discussions held by the Committee with respect to Brock's grading system and the rounding of grades to comply with the 0, 2, 5, 8 marking scheme. The Committee had agreed that feedback from Senate was needed to determine if further examination of a potential change to the system was warranted.

The Chair opened the floor for a fifteen minute discussion, during which Professor Zelisko received comments from members with respect to a potential change to the marking system to utilize all digits for both undergraduate and graduate students and to include the class average or median on the transcript. The importance of ensuring students' marks are fair, transparent and accurate and that the method of calculation does not disadvantage students was emphasized.

Professor Zelisko thanked Senators for their feedback. The Committee would further discuss next steps and report back to Senate.

10.2 Governance Committee

[The Report of the Governance Committee dated November 14, 2008 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

a) Re: Executive Director, Information Technology Services as an ex officio voting member of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee

Professor Cheel reviewed the rationale for the proposed recommendation as outlined in the Report.

MOVED (Cheel/Sydor)

THAT FHB II: 9.7.2 be amended to include the position of Executive Director, Information Technology Services as an *ex officio* voting member of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee.

CARRIED

In response to a question regarding the membership, Dr. Connolly ensured that non-decanal faculty members would constitute at least a voting majority in keeping with FHB II: 9.1.3.

b) Re: Advisory Committee for the Search for the Dean of Graduate Studies

Professor Cheel reviewed the information regarding the update on the call for nominations for members who may be chosen to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Appointment of the Dean of Graduate Studies. He noted that nominations were still required for a representative from the Faculty of Education and for a Senator who is not affiliated with a graduate program. Nominations would be accepted on or before midnight on Friday, November 21, 2008.

11. Other Business

11.1 Proposed Academic Dates 2009-2010

[A memorandum from the Registrar dated November 11, 2008 together with the proposed schedule of Academic Dates 2009-2010 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

Ms. Davis referred members to the Proposed Schedule of Academic Dates for 2009-2010 which had been distributed for the information of Senate. She pointed out the proposed first day of winter term classes for undergraduate students would commence on Monday, January 11, 2010. During a brief discussion, the importance of commencing classes on a Monday was emphasized. It was noted that the 2010 snow/reading day should read 13-April, and the schedule would be revised accordingly.

12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.