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MINUTES OF MEETING #552 (2007-08)

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2007, 3:00 PM

DR. CHARLES A. SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Maureen Connolly (Chair), Professor Barry Wright (Vice-Chair), Dr. Terry Boak, Ms. Barb Davis, Dr. Greg Finn, Dean James Heap, Mr. Dave Howes, Dean Martin Kusy, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Ms. Kim Meade, Dean Joffre Mercier, Mr. Damien O'Brien, Dean Marilyn Rose, Dean David Siegel

Professor Tansu Barker, Ms. Karen Bordonaro, Professors Shyamal Bose, Rick Cheel, Christine Daigle, Tamara El-Hoss, Anton Jansen, Ken Klassen, Nota Klentrou, Anna Lathrop, Herbert MacKenzie, Dan Malleck, Cheryl McCormick, Carol Merriam, Bozidar Mitrovic, Tom O'Neill, Brian Roy, Anamitra Shome, John Sivell, R. Angus Smith, Garth Stevenson, Mary Louise Vanderlee, Louis Volante, Michelle Webber, Paul Zelisko

Ms. Alison Grevatt, Mr. Sohail Mall, Mr. Roelof Makken, Ms. Iva Mathews, Mr. Andrew Saunders

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Victoria Howerton, Professor Jane Koustas, Dr. Tom Winger

REGRETS: Professors Mohamed Ayadi, Ian Brindle, Mr. Justin Carre, Dean John Corlett, Professors Irene Blayer, Tony DiPetta, Nancy Francis, Mr. Ned Goodman, Ms. Margaret Grove, Dean Rosemary Hale, Professor Murray Kropf, Mr. Rob Lanteigne, Mr. Kurtis McCartney, Professor Merijean Morrissey, Ms. Joy Rogers, Professors Anamitra Shome, Susan Sydor, Dr. Harald Tomesch

Professor Connolly welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 551st meeting of Senate held on September 26, 2007 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.

MOVED (Mercier/Merriam)

THAT the minutes of the 551st meeting of Senate held on September 26, 2007 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes – None

3. Communications - None

4. Report of the Chair

Professor Connolly noted that Senate meetings would commence with "items for celebration", and she invited members to submit good news stories regarding students, faculty members, staff, etc. to the Secretariat for announcement at future meetings.

The Chair related the following highlights from the recent Fall Convocation Ceremonies:

- Mr. Ned Goodman was installed as Chancellor of Brock University;
- Professor Dorothy Griffiths received the Brock University Award for Distinguished Teaching;
- Professor Stefan Brudzynski received the Brock University Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity;
- Professors Ernest Biktimirov, Barry Joe and Anna Lathrop were recognized for receiving the province's Leadership in Faculty Teaching awards for their outstanding classroom skills.

Professor Connolly expressed special thanks to the Registrar's Office for their monumental support in managing the convocation ceremonies. Senators applauded.

5. Report of the President and Vice-Chancellor
[The President's Report dated October 10, 2007 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

Dr. Lightstone provided a brief overview of his written Report dated October 10, 2007.

The President expanded on a communication that he would soon be forwarding to the Presidents of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) outlining his objections to a government proposal to differentially fund universities. A copy would be forwarded to Senate and the Board of Trustees for information. A discussion ensued during which the Dr. Lightstone addressed questions and comments from members.

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

By way of overhead presentation, Dr. Boak provided a brief summary of Brock's rankings in the *2007 University Report Card* published in *The Globe and Mail* on October 16, 2007. The

University Report Card grades universities based on the survey opinions of undergraduate students.
Dr. Boak encouraged Senators to review the document, available on-line at www.theglobeandmail.com/education, and to forward to him or Ms. Meade any suggestions for increasing student satisfaction.

A discussion ensued during which members considered the survey methodology and the impact of the published results on the University's reputation.

7. Report of the Academic Colleague - COU

The Academic Colleagues had not met since the previous meeting of Senate.

8. Report of the Actions of the Board of Trustees
[A Brief of the Board meeting held September 27, 2007 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

The Brief of the Board meeting held September 27, 2007 had been posted for the information of Senate.

9. Unfinished Business from the Last Meeting - None

10. Reports of Standing Committees

10.1 Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee
[The Report of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee dated October 17, 2007 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

Professor MacKenzie presented the Report of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee.

1. Re: Proposal from the Department of Psychology - Amendment to Faculty Handbook III: 6.4B - General Degree Requirements

MOVED (MacKenzie/Saunders)

THAT Senate approve the following amendment to Faculty Handbook III: 6.4B - General Degree Requirements:

"A BA with a Major, A BSc with a Major, a BPhEd with a major or a BBA degree will be awarded upon the successful completion of 20 credits with a minimum major average of 60 percent and a cumulative average of 60 percent. At least 12 of the 20 credits must be at the 2(alpha)00-level or above, at least six of these must be at the 2(alpha)90-level or above, and at least ~~three~~ *1.5 to 3.0* of these must be at the 3(alpha)90-level or above *as specified by individual department and program requirements."*

Professor MacKenzie reviewed the rationale for the proposed amendment as outlined in the Report. An amendment to this section of the Faculty Handbook had been previously discussed by

Senate at its 546th meeting held February 28, 2007. During that meeting, the motion was referred to the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee for further consideration.

It was noted that the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee had not reviewed the proposed recommendation as indicated in the Report; however, in addition to the Student Affairs Committee, it had been previously examined by and received the support of the Undergraduate Program Committee, the Governance Committee and the Committee of Academic Deans.

An extensive discussion ensued, during which Professor MacKenzie and Dean Siegel responded to questions from members regarding potential implications of the proposed amendment to other academic programs and degree requirements. It was noted that additional editorial updates to the Faculty Handbook would be made with respect to the various degrees with major.

CARRIED

10.2 Undergraduate Program Committee

[The Report of the Undergraduate Program Committee dated October 17, 2007, together with Appendix 1, had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

The Report of the Undergraduate Program Committee had been distributed for the information of Senate.

10.3 Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee

[The Report of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee dated October 10, 2007 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

Professor Stevenson referred members to the Report of the Information Technology and Infrastructure Committee which had been distributed for information.

10.4 Teaching and Learning Policy Committee

[The Report of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee dated October 10, 2007 had been posted on-line with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sivell presented the Report of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee.

1. Re: Process to Formalize the Approval of New Context Courses

MOVED (Sivell/Shome)

THAT Senate approve that the designation of any new context course (whether a humanities context course, a science context course, or a social science context course) be first approved by the dean of the related faculty (thus the Dean of Humanities for any new humanities context course, the Dean of Mathematics and Science for any science context course, or the Dean of Social Sciences for any social sciences context course).

Professor Sivell reviewed the rationale for the proposed recommendation as outlined in Appendix A. A discussion ensued during which concerns were expressed regarding the proposed

decanal approval process.

MOVED (Kusy/Siegel)

THAT the motion regarding the designation of any new context course be referred to the Committee of Academic Deans (CAD) for further consideration and that CAD report back to Senate through the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee.

CARRIED

2. Re: Best Practices in the Evaluation of Teaching

MOVED (Sivell/Cheel)

THAT the CTLET *Recommendations for Best Practice in Evaluation of Teaching* be forwarded to Senate as the basis for time-limited discussion and for elicitation of Senate's advice to the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee with respect to what, if any, policy items the Committee should pursue from the document and then present to Senate.

CARRIED

The discussion of the document (available at www.brocku.ca/ctlet/evaluation.php) would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of Senate.

With respect to the information item contained in the Report regarding the Committee's review of a proposed Student Medical Certificate, it was suggested to Professor Sivell that the Certificate be forwarded to the Student Affairs Committee for review, in addition to the Undergraduate Program Committee.

10.5 Governance Committee

Professor Cheel referred members to the Report of the Governance Committee which had been distributed for the information of Senate. He related that Professor Miriam Richards had been appointed to the Advisory Committee for the Search of the Vice-President, Research as the full-time tenured faculty member from the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

11. Other Business

In response to a question, Professor Connolly noted the procedures for the conduct of Senate meetings which are prescribed in the Faculty Handbook (Section II: 7.2).

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.