



Brock University Senate

MINUTES OF MEETING #576 (2009-10)

**SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010, 3:00 PM

DR. CHARLES A. SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor John Sivell (Chair), Professor Susan Sydor (Vice-Chair), Dr. Ian Brindle, Interim Dean Rick Cheel, Dean John Corlett, Ms. Barb Davis, Dean Thomas Dunk, Dr. Greg Finn, Ms. Margaret Grove, Dean Rosemary Hale, Dean James Heap, Dr. Murray Knuttila, Mr. Rudi Kroeker, Mr. Rob Lanteigne, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Ms. Kim Meade, Dean Marilyn Rose, Interim Dean Barbara Sainty

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

Mr. Will Crothers, Mr. Ryan Klamot, Ms. Carly White

Mr. Bill Rickers, Mr. Bruce Wormald

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Mr. Patrick Beard, Professor Irene Blayer, Professor Jonah Butovsky, Associate Dean John Lye, Mr. Steven Pillar, Professor Brian Power

REGRETS: Mr. Roland Acha, Ms. Tabasum Akseer, Ms. Jessica Gallagher, Mr. Ned Goodman, Mr. Sebastian Prins, Mr. Kevin Smith, Professor Barry Wright, Dr. Philip Wright

Professor Sivell welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the 575<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate held on January 20, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.

It was requested, and concurred, that the minutes of Senate 575 be amended to include the points of order raised during the meeting.

**MOVED** (Felton/Plyley)

**THAT the minutes of the 575<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate held on January 20, 2010 be approved as amended.**

**CARRIED**

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

**3. Communications - None**

**4. Report of the Chair**

[The Highlights for Senate 576 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sivell referred members to the Senate Highlights which had been posted with the meeting materials. He was pleased to note that the University had raised more than \$16,000 for the Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti which will be doubled by the federal government's matching funds program.

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

[The President's Report dated February 1, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Dr. Lightstone referred Senators to his written Report. He noted that, as recently announced, Dr. Vasseur had stepped down from the position of Vice-President, Research to concentrate on her research work. The President recognized and expressed appreciation to Dr. Vasseur for her contributions over the past year noting that the University looks forward to her academic contributions within the Department of Biological Sciences. He was pleased to further note that, in the interim, Dr. Brindle would be serving as Vice-President, Research and Professor Cheel as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Science. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Brindle and Professor Cheel for agreeing to serve the University in these roles.

During a recent joint meeting of the COU Executive Heads and the Council of Chairs of Ontario Universities (CCOU), John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, related that there was no additional news regarding the government's actions to better support the operating budgets of universities. It is anticipated that the provincial budget and other major funding announcements would not be made public prior to the end of March.

During discussion, the President was asked to provide an update with respect to the e-mail forwarded to students on February 3, 2010 regarding personal information that was accidentally uploaded onto a publicly accessible Brock website. On behalf of the University, Dr. Lightstone apologized for the occurrence. He then expanded on the incident noting that it had been a result of human error and was not intentional. Immediate action

had been taken and ongoing measures have been initiated to reduce the risk of a reoccurrence.

In response to a question, the President noted that recent media releases intentionally did not reflect that the appointment of Dr. Brindle as Vice-President, Research was an interim position. The period of the appointment is until the end of June 2011. The Vice-President, Research has a highly external role in serving the interests of the institution, faculty, staff and students. It is vital that the title not hinder the authority of the incumbent to represent Brock University. A search for the position of Vice-President, Research, as well as the position of Dean, Faculty of Mathematics and Science, would be conducted by the University within the appropriate timeframes.

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

Dr. Knuttila provided an oral update which included the following:

- With respect to the search for the Dean of the Faculty of Business, two candidates had recently visited the campus. For those who attended the public events, signed comments to the search committee may be forwarded to Dr. Knuttila.
- The search committees for the Dean of the Faculty of Education and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities have developed short lists. The names would be made public in the near future.
- During a recent meeting of the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents, the establishment of the new Quality Council for Ontario Universities was approved. The Quality Assurance Framework for Ontario Universities was also approved by OCAV. During its meeting, an extensive discussion was held regarding the Ontario College's proposed changes in degree granting as contained in a recently released paper. OCAV agreed to strike a task force to develop a response to the document as there were implications for universities. Senate would be kept apprised of further developments.
- Dr. Knuttila would be meeting with academic units to discuss the strategic planning process.

## **7. Report of the Academic Colleague – COU - None**

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

There had been no meeting held since the previous meeting of Senate.

## **9. Unfinished Business from the Last Meeting - None**

## **10. Reports of Standing Committees**

### ***10.1 Undergraduate Program Committee***

[The Report of the Undergraduate Program Committee dated February 10, 2010 had been posted with the meeting materials.]

Professor Mandigo presented the Report of the Undergraduate Program Committee.

a) Faculty of Humanities

Professor Mandigo noted that the first motion outlined in the Report had been revised to include a reference that an amendment to the Faculty Handbook was required.

**MOVED** (Mandigo/Hale)

**THAT Senate accept the motion to repeal the Language Requirement for the Faculty of Humanities as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Report and that Faculty Handbook III: 6.3 be amended accordingly to reflect this change.**

The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities reviewed in detail the background information and expanded on the rationale for the proposed recommendation to repeal the language requirement in the Faculty of Humanities as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Report.

A protracted discussion ensued and members expressed arguments for and against the proposed recommendation.

It was suggested that before this irreversible step is taken, the motion be tabled so that a committee could be formed across departments to explore all possible alternatives before eliminating something that has been so valuable to students at Brock over the years and has the potential to be valuable in the future.

**MOVED** (Nickel/Sadava)

**THAT the motion be tabled.**

Professor Sivell questioned if this was a motion to postpone consideration. The mover confirmed that it was a motion to table.

**DEFEATED**

During further debate, Senators and others recognized by the Chair continued to state support or opposition to the proposal.

A point of order was raised that a member who wished to speak had not yet been entitled to the floor while other members had already spoken a second time. The Chair ruled that the point of order was well taken.

Discussion on the pending main motion continued.

Professor Savage, noting that there appeared to be inconsistencies reported regarding the consultation process, moved the following motion:

**THAT the motion be tabled with instructions that the Chair of Senate ask the Chair of each academic unit in the Faculty of Humanities to provide a written statement outlining the unit's position on this proposal.**

A point of order was raised that the proposed motion was not in order as it repeated a previous motion presented and defeated. The Chair agreed and further concurred that a suggestion to refer the main motion back to the Undergraduate Program Committee be considered.

**MOVED** (Sadava/Barker)

**THAT the motion be referred back to the Undergraduate Program Committee.**

The Chair was then questioned on the point of order. The Chair ruled that the point of order was well taken and that the motion to table was not in order as it was essentially the same as the previous motion. Professor Savage challenged the ruling of the Chair. Professor Sivell vacated the Chair and Vice-Chair of Senate, Professor Sydor, presided. Professor Savage was provided an opportunity to explain the challenge.

Professor Sydor called for the question regarding the upholding the Chair's ruling on the motion to table.

**THAT the decision of the Chair's ruling on the motion to table be upheld.**

**CARRIED**

Professor Sivell resumed as Chair and opened the floor for the discussion regarding the recommendation to refer the motion back to the Undergraduate Program Committee. Instructions to the Undergraduate Program Committee included that further consultation be sought with Chairs and Departments.

In response to a point of order regarding the status of the motion to refer, the Chair confirmed that a friendly amendment proposed to include a request for a further breakdown of the statistics had not been supported.

At the request of the Chair, the mover clarified the wording of the motion as follows:

**THAT the motion be referred back to the Undergraduate Program Committee in light of the discussion, disagreement and unanswered questions during the past one and a half hours.**

**DEFEATED**

The Chair questioned, and it was confirmed, that Senators were ready to vote on the main motion.

**QUESTION on the motion to repeal the Language Requirement for the Faculty of Humanities as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Report and that Faculty Handbook III: 6.3 be amended accordingly to reflect this change.**

**CARRIED**

Professor Mandigo referred Senators to the subsequent motion contained in the Report regarding the repeal of the Humanities Language Requirement.

**MOVED** (Mandigo/Vivian)

**THAT Senate accept that the repeal of the Humanities Language Requirement be backdated to apply to all Humanities majors currently in the process of completing their degree programs.**

In response to a question regarding the implications of backdating the repeal for students, it was noted that while students are expected to complete the university and degree program requirements outlined in the Calendar in the year in which the program was entered, students do have the option to adopt the program requirements of a subsequent Calendar with appropriate approval. By approving the backdating of the repeal for all Humanities majors currently in the process of completing their degrees, the administrative processes, which already permit the progression, would be handled more efficiently.

**CARRIED**

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

Professor Mandigo referred members to the 13 motions contained within the Report. The Chair questioned if Senate would prefer to consider all motions as an omnibus motion. It was requested, and Senate concurred, that item 10 regarding Tourism and Environment be considered separately.

**MOVED** (Mandigo/ Finn)

**THAT the motions as contained in items 1-9 and item 11 of the Report be approved.**

**CARRIED**

Noting the hour, it was suggested that the meeting adjourn.

Item 10 within the Report of the Undergraduate Program Committee regarding Tourism and Environment would be considered at the next meeting of Senate as well as the Report of the Governance Committee dated February 4, 2010.

**10.2 Governance Committee**

[The Report of the Governance Committee dated February 4, 2010, together with Appendix A: Academic Review Committee: Proposed FHB Amendments, had been posted with the meeting materials.]

The Report was deferred to the next meeting of Senate.

**11. Other Business - None**

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.