



Brock University Senate

(Circulated prior to approval)

MINUTES OF MEETING #5 (2009-10)

SENATE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010, 2:30 PM

13TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

PRESENT: Professor Richard Parker (Chair), Professor Tansu Barker (Vice-Chair), Mr. Will Crothers, Dr. Greg Finn, Dean James Heap, Professor Nota Klentrou, Professor James Mandigo, Professor Felice Martinello, Professor Stan Sadava, Interim Dean Barbara Sainty, Professor Susan Sydor, Professor Paul Zelisko

Ms. Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

REGRETS: Ms. Nadie Akseer, Professor David Vivian

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on February 3, 2010 had been distributed with the meeting materials.

MOVED (Sydor/Barker)

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee held on February 3, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes - None

3. Report of the Chair - None

4. Development of Budget Input Report to Senate

[A memorandum from the Chair of the Department of Physical Education and Kinesiology dated February 26, 2010 regarding the academic impact of budgetary exercises had been distributed prior to the meeting. Memorandums from the Undergraduate Program Committee, the Graduate Studies Committee and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies which had been considered at the February 3, 2010 meeting were re-circulated at the outset of the meeting.]

Professor Parker referred members to the memorandums distributed and reviewed the highlights of the submissions. It was noted that that the objective of today's meeting was to develop a report to Senate incorporating the salient themes of the memorandums and other points of information. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

A two-hour discussion ensued regarding the impact of the budget exercise on the quality of the academic program. Key issues raised included the following:

- The budget's impact on increased seminar sizes, elimination of seminars, safety issues, graduate studies funding, reductions in teaching assistantships; quality of academic programs;
- Senate previously approved a recommendation that the seminar/small group size at Brock University be considered optimal at 16 students per class and normally not exceed 18 students (Senate 540, May 31, 2006)
- Need to focus on general academic policy as opposed to specific departments and programs and pay attention to "collateral damage" that may occur from decisions made; focus on global impact of the budget target;
- It would be beneficial to develop a list of academic priorities prior to the budget developers presentations to the University's Budget Committee on March 22;
- Brock's advertisements focus on small-group learning which is no longer the case in some departments;
- Need to be cognizant of differences between labs, seminars and small-group learning;
- Need to examine alternatives to current course delivery methods;
- The development of the University's strategic plan would identify the priorities;
- It may be beneficial for the Committee to advise of the academic needs to be safeguarded going forward – what is near and dear to Brock;
- May need to advise that the BAC cannot say with confidence that the budget reductions are not affecting the quality of our programs;
- May be appropriate for BAC to recommend to align operational processes with the responsibilities of the BAC;
- Initiatives regarding cost savings/increasing revenue have been forwarded to administration and it is not clear which are being considered.
- Mandate of BAC is to evaluate budget given to us in terms of academic program, not to develop the budget;
- Across the board percentage targets are not appropriate;

Following discussion, it was concurred that the Chair would develop a draft Report to Senate outlining the main issues discussed. The draft would be forwarded to members for review prior to submitting the Report to Senate.

5. Other Business - None

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.