



MINUTES OF MEETING #5 (2008-09)

**SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009, 3:00 PM

SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Rick Cheel (Chair), Professor Tansu Barker,  
Mr. Patrick Beard, Dr. Terry Boak, Dean Ian Brindle, Mr. Joseph Brown,  
Mr. Mike Farrell (Recorder), Mr. Rob Lanteigne, Ms. Laurie Morrison,  
Professor Stan Sadava

REGRETS: Professor Irene Blayer, Professor Maureen Connolly,  
Dean Rosemary Hale, Professor Michael Plyley, Professor Susan Sydor

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2008-09) meeting #4 held December 3, 2008 were circulated prior to the meeting.

**MOVED** (Boak/Sadava)

**That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2008-09) meeting #4 held December 3, 2008 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**2. Business arising from the minutes**

Professor Cheel notified the Committee that there was no need to recruit a new member from the Faculty of Business for the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee as the incumbent is remaining as a member.

**3. Recognizing service to Senate**

Professor Cheel noted that during the Committee's meeting with Senate Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Secretaries held on December 3, 2008, ways to recognize service to Senate were discussed. During the meeting, a recommendation was approved directing the Governance Committee to develop an internal award to recognize exemplary service to Brock University by those teaching staff/professional librarian members who serve Senate.

Professor Maureen Connolly has agreed to develop the terms of reference and an adjudication process for the award for the consideration of the Committee.

The Committee discussed several ways to recognize service to Senate based on the input received from Senate Committees. A summary of the input was distributed to the Committee for reference during the meeting.

The Committee discussed the desire to provide release time for the Chair and Vice-Chair of Senate to assist them in managing the workload required of the positions throughout the academic year. Also discussed were ways to give Senators a higher profile during Convocation ceremonies.

**MOVED** (Barker/Brown)

**That Senate recommend to the senior administration that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Senate be granted release time in order to perform their Senate duties.**

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** (Brindle/Lanteigne)

**That the Governance Committee recommend to Senate that the Office of the Registrar organize the Convocation procession in order that participating Senators march immediately behind the Mace Bearer and that all Senators are listed in the Convocation booklet.**

**CARRIED**

The two recommendations were supported unanimously by the Governance Committee.

**4. Membership of the Budget Advisory Committee**

Professor Cheel informed the Committee that the membership of the Budget Advisory Committee has been confirmed and reviewed the membership. The Committee will hold its first meeting January 22, 2009, and will report on its meeting during the next meeting of Senate. As per Senate bylaws, the Vice-Chair of Senate will oversee the election of the Committee Chair during its inaugural meeting. Professor Susan Sydor will represent the Governance Committee on the Budget Advisory Committee.

**5. Proposed amendment to FHB I: 8.3.1 re term of office for Deans**

Dr. Boak informed the Committee that the Committee of Academic Deans had strongly recommended that the word "normally" be included in the proposed amendment to the term of office for Deans as outlined in FHB I: 8.3.1.

The current wording reads:

Reappointment/Renewal - A Dean may be a candidate for subsequent term(s).

The proposed wording reads:

Reappointment/Renewal - Normally, a Dean would serve for a maximum of two terms (10 years).

The Committee agreed that it would prefer to review the wording all of the senior administrative positions in the Faculty Handbook before considering the proposal. Any recommendation from the Committee to Senate, if approved, would be forwarded to the Board of Trustees as advice.

**MOVED** (Brindle/Barker)

**That the discussion of the proposed amendment to the term of office for Deans as outlined in FHB I: 8.3.1.be tabled and discussed during the next meeting of the Committee and that a summary report of all senior administrative positions in the FHB with respect to reappointment/renewal be provided.**

**CARRIED**

Mr. Farrell will prepare the summary report for the next meeting of the Committee.

**6. Report on the review of the criteria and process for awarding Honorary Degrees**

The Committee reviewed the proposed amendments as outlined in the document *Procedures and Guidelines for Nomination of Honorary Degrees*, which was distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. The goal of the review was to more clearly state the values reflected by the Honorary Degree award and the process leading to such an award.

The Committee agreed that the Governance Committee should continue to be responsible for reviewing nominations and making recommendations to Senate. One editorial change was made with respect to the criteria for selecting candidates in which the word “normally” was included within the limitations for application. It was also noted that a purpose of awarding an Honorary Degree is to honour an individual who is a role model and whose life and/or career reflects what students and others would want to aspire to i.e. outstanding and remarkable achievements.

**MOVED** (Brindle/Sadava)

**That the Governance Committee recommend to Senate that the revised Procedures and Guidelines for Nomination of Honorary Degrees be approved, as proposed.**

**CARRIED**

**7. Executive Committee for Senate business over summer months**

During the summer months, when meetings of Senate are not scheduled (June through August) there may be routine matters that need to be considered. The Committee considered that if a routine matter arose over the summer months, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Senate could decide if members of Senate would need to be consulted or would make the decision on behalf of Senate.

Examples of routine matters may include the early issuing of a diploma or context credit approval. All matters considered would be reported to Senate during its first meeting of the academic year in September.

**MOVED** (Sadava/Brindle)

**That the Governance Committee recommend to Senate that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Senate consult with members of Senate, as appropriate, in making decisions on routine matters over the summer months and that Faculty Handbook Section II: 7.1.1 be amended accordingly.**

**CARRIED**

As it may be difficult to call a meeting of Senate over the summer months and have the quorum required to approve more substantial matters that may arise, the Committee could act as an Executive Committee of Senate and have the authority to approve non-routine matters. All matters considered would be reported to Senate during its first meeting of the academic year in September.

**MOVED** (Brindle/ Brown)

**That the Governance Committee recommend to Senate that the Governance Committee act as the Executive Committee of Senate over the summer months to consider non-routine matters and that Faculty Handbook Section II: 7.1.1 be amended accordingly.**

**CARRIED**

**8. Review of the process for assigning members to Senate Committees**

Professor Cheel suggested and the Committee concurred that this item would be discussed when Professor Connolly returned to the University.

**9. Decanal representation on Senate Committees**

Professor Cheel informed the Committee that Professor Carol Merriam, President of BUFA, has been invited to the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the matter of the eligibility of Associate Deans being elected to Senate. It was agreed that this discussion should be held before considering decanal representation on Senate Committees as this issue was related to Associate Deans acting as alternates for a Dean on Senate Committees. Mr. Farrell would distribute to the Committee the legal opinion received in 2005 when changes to Senate eligibility were discussed.

**10. Other business**

It was noted that student representation would be considered when the matter of Decanal representation on Senate Committees was discussed.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.