



MINUTES OF MEETING #1 (2008-09)

SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008, 3:00 PM

ROOM MC D350L, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Rick Cheel (Chair), Professor Tansu Barker, Mr. Patrick Beard, Professor Irene Blayer, Dr. Terry Boak, Mr. Joseph Brown, Professor Maureen Connolly, Mr. Mike Farrell (Recorder), Professor Greg Finn, Dean Rosemary Hale, Mr. Rob Lanteigne, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Ms. Laurie Morrison, Professor Michael Plyley, Professor Stan Sadava, Professor Susan Sydor

Dean Thomas Dunk (for Item 9)

REGRETS: Interim Dean Joffre Mercier

1. Welcome and Introductions

Professor Cheel called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and welcomed members to the first meeting of the 2008-09 academic year. Members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2007-08) meeting #10 held May 7, 2008 were circulated prior to the meeting.

MOVED (Barker/Finn)

That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2007-08) meeting #10 held May 7, 2008 be approved.

CARRIED

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

The draft report, *Suggestions for criteria and procedure for the selection of Honorary Degree recipients*, dated September 10, 2008, was circulated with the meeting materials. Professor Barker provided an overview of the report noting that it was a work in progress developed by a sub-committee and reviewed with the President. The Committee discussed the report and the changes proposed

to the current process and criteria. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Committee would further discuss, at its next meeting, the draft report in comparison to the current guidelines for awarding Honorary Degrees.

MOVED (Plyley/Sydor)

That the draft report, Suggestions for criteria and procedure for the selection of Honorary Degree recipients, dated September 10, 2008, be received.

CARRIED

4. Review of the 2007-08 Governance Committee Annual Report

Professor Cheel noted that the Governance Committee Annual Report was provided for information and is linked on the Senate web site under the meeting held May 28, 2008. The items for action noted in the report are included in the Committee's 2008-09 Critical Path Outline.

5. Review of the 2008-09 Governance Committee Critical Path

Professor Cheel noted that the Senate Governance Committee 2008-09 Critical Path Outline, included with the agenda materials, provides a list of future agenda items for coming meetings. New agenda items would be added to specific meeting agendas as required throughout the year.

6. Senate Committee membership update

Professor Connolly informed the Committee that it has been difficult to fill all of the Senate Committee membership requirements this year. A review of the process for determining Senate Committee membership will be undertaken in order to streamline the process. Professor Connolly noted that Professor Hugh Gaylor had recently agreed to Chair the Undergraduate Program Committee. Although he is not a Senator, he would be invited to present reports to Senate on behalf of the Committee, as required. It has been particularly difficult to find faculty members willing to commit to the role of Committee Chair.

7. Vice-President, Research as ex officio member of Senate

The Associate Vice-President, Research and International Development is currently an ex officio voting member of Senate. In September 2007, the Board of Trustees approved the creation of the position of Vice-President, Research. Dr. Liette Vasseur will begin in this role on January 1, 2009.

The Vice-President, Research position would replace the position of Associate Vice-President, Research and International Development on Senate.

MOVED (Sydor/Sadava)

That the position of Vice-President, Research be appointed as an ex officio voting member of Senate and that the position of Associate Vice-President, Research and International Development be removed, effective January 1, 2009.

8. Creation of a University Senate Planning Committee

A memo to the Governance Committee from the Graduate Studies Committee, dated June 13, 2008, was distributed to the Committee. The memo included a motion from the May 26, 2008 meeting of the Committee, as follows:

"The SGSC requests that the Senate Governance Committee consider the creation of a University Senate Planning Committee with responsibility for discussing and monitoring the implications of academic growth (undergraduate and graduate) as outlined in Brock 2014 or consider and recommend the formation of a high-level university-wide planning committee residing elsewhere within the University's Governance structure, which would undertake this work."

In response to the motion, Dr. Lightstone reported that planning at the University-wide level currently takes place through two high-level committees: the Senior Administrators Committee (SAC) and the Committee of Academic Deans (CAD). Both committees meet monthly throughout most of the year and have a long-standing commitment to long-term planning of all academic and non-academic matters pertaining to the University. As an example, the document "Brock 2014" was offered for comment by the University Community in general, including all members of Senate through Senate and its Committees.

Many of the academic initiatives that are considered by Senate over the course of any given year arise from one or both of these high-level committees. Thus, an effective and consultative process for long-term planning already exists within the University by committees that are dedicated to the task and which regularly communicate with Senate to seek and to integrate Senate input.

Following discussion, the Committee did not support the proposal of creating another committee to be responsible for planning and concurred that the current practice works well and provides considerable opportunity for long-term planning across the University. It was agreed that Professor Cheel would draft a letter of response to the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee. The memo would be shared with the Governance Committee.

9. Academic Program Review – Department of Sociology

Professor Cheel welcomed Dean Thomas Dunk to the meeting for the discussion of the Department of Sociology Academic Review.

The responsibilities of the Governance Committee for Academic Program Reviews are outlined in Section III: 20 of the Faculty Handbook. The Committee is to confirm that all review procedures have been followed or identify where they have not. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that all review procedures had been followed and agreed that the Academic Program Review of the Department of Sociology be accepted. The Committee had approved the Department of Sociology Self-Study and the list of those to be interviewed by the reviewers on January 30, 2008.

MOVED (Barker/Sadava)

That the Governance Committee recommend to Senate that the Academic Review of the Department of Sociology be accepted.

The Dean's Executive Summary and Response to the Academic Review will be attached to the report to Senate.

10. Decanal representation on Senate Committees

Dean Hale informed the Committee that it was difficult for Deans to attend Senate Committee meetings due to their busy schedules. With Deans unable to attend meetings, the perspective of the Committee of Academic Deans is not represented. Due to this situation, she proposed that an Associate Dean could be a designate at meetings. Following discussion, Dean Hale agreed to bring the question to CAD and report back to the Committee.

11. Executive Director ITS as ex officio voting member of Senate

The Committee discussed the position of Executive Director, Information Technology Services as an ex officio voting member of Senate. The inclusion of this position would add a needed voice on Senate and its Committees with respect to the University-wide responsibilities of this portfolio and its connection to the academic program. Before consideration of a motion to this effect, the Committee discussed the importance of maintaining the current ratio of Full-time Teaching/Professional Librarian staff on Senate. The Committee discussed the procedure that one representative from this group be elected to Senate whenever an additional voting ex officio member of Senate is approved.

With respect to the composition of Senate, Article 12 a) of the Act states that: "such number elected by and from the full time teaching staff as shall always constitute a majority." The current composition of Senate is as follows:

34 Full-time Teaching/Professional Librarian staff members and 28 other members including ex officio (18 including 1 non-voting), Board of Trustees (2), students (8).

Ex officio appointments to Senate are made under Article 12 d) of the *Brock University Act* which outlines the composition of Senate including "such other persons elected or appointed as the Senate determines."

MOVED (Sadava/Sydor)

That one representative from the Full-time Teaching/Professional Librarian staff be added to Senate when an additional voting ex officio member of Senate is approved.

MOVED (Plyley/Barker)

That the position of Executive Director, Information Technology Services be appointed as an ex officio voting member of Senate.

With respect to the addition of a Senator, the person next standing from the previous election would be asked to serve in the new position. If there is no next standing list, and depending on the time of year, the position would be filled through a by-election or during the annual spring election as outlined in the Faculty Handbook.

12. Other business

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.