

**MINUTES OF MEETING #3 (2008 - 2009) OF THE  
SENATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP POLICY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 AT 1:30PM - 3:00PM  
IN MC D350-L**

**PRESENT:** Professor Gary Pickering (Chair), Ms. Melissa Barnard, Dr. Terry Boak, Professor Sandra Bosacki, Dean Ian Brindle, Professor Tamara El-Hoss (Vice-Chair), Professor Bulent Menguc, Professor Tom O'Neill, Professor Lynn Rempel, Dean Marilyn Rose, Professor Matthew Royal, Professor John Sivell, Professor Angus Smith, Dr. Liette Vasseur, Ms. Judy Maiden (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** Ms. Frances Chandler, Ms. Margaret Grove, Mr. Hassan Khalid, Professor Tim O'Connell

**Introductions / Welcome**

Professor Pickering welcomed members and Dr. Liette Vasseur, the new Vice-President Research to the meeting.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED** (El-Hoss/Brindle)

**THAT** the agenda be accepted with the addition of the tax deductible form for research purposes be added for discussion to 'Other Business' as requested by Dr. Vasseur.

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**MOVED** (El-Hoss/Smith)

**THAT** the minutes of the #2 (2008 - 2009) Senate Research & Scholarship Policy Committee held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 be approved.

**CARRIED**

**3. Business Arising**

i Target Marketing presentation on the Brock Brand Platform

Professor El-Hoss attended the presentation in December and reported everyone in attendance was impressed. It was viewed as an excellent idea, extremely creative, visually stunning and different from other universities. Dean Rose expressed concern about what the graduate component will look like. She will look at whether it is adaptable to research, graduate studies and donors.

It was noted the branding will roll out with the Capital Campaign first, then recruitment activities, graduate and undergraduate, but the messaging will come from us. It is impressive how it will roll out because it is different from other institutions. A budget has been set for the first stages.

Dean Rose left the meeting at 2:00pm.

ii Restructure of sub-committees for 2008-09

Dr. Vasseur will join the Policy and Procedure sub-committee ex-officio.

**MOVED** (Smith/Rempel)

**THAT** the new structure of the sub-committees be approved.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. Reports from sub-committees**

i Profile Raising

Professor Smith noted the sub-committee attempted to meet in December, but due to scheduling difficulties were unable to meet. He will arrange a new meeting. Ms. Chandler is no longer on the committee and a new member has been assigned to the sub-committee.

Sub-Committee composition – Chair: Professor Smith  
Members: Professor Bosacki, Ms. Barnard, Professor O’Neill

ii Policies and Procedures

Dean Brindle hopes to have the committee meet in the next month

Sub-Committee composition – Chair: Dean Brindle  
Members: Professor El-Hoss, Professor O’Connell, Mr. Khalid, Dr. Vasseur

iii Finance (no report)

Sub-Committee composition – Chair: Professor Menguc  
Members: Professor Rempel

## 5. New Business

### i. Niagara Community Observatory Research Unit

Professor Pickering stated that a new Research Unit has been proposed, with Professor David Siegel as the Director.

Discussion on the appropriate reporting structure followed, after reviewing FHB 25 - The Policy on the Establishment and Review of Research Units, Centres and Institutes, and discussion on CCOVI (a research institute that reports to VP Research). The need for a standardized reporting structure for these entities was discussed. Some practices and definitions may need to be changed.

Dr. Boak mentioned this Research Unit had been under discussion with Professor Siegel for a while now. With the addition of a Vice-President Research the environment has changed since these discussions were first undertaken. This is a new kind of initiative and as it is not fundamental research, but community-directed, it was felt by Dr Boak that it should report to the Vice-President Research. The research will be very much focused on the goals Professor Siegel refers to in the Operating Plan which indicates clearly that this Research Unit is community-based. A review of other observatories could be explored.

Sandra Bosacki arrived at 2:10pm

This is a highly interdisciplinary group and it can be very diverse depending on the work that needs to be done. On the first page, Appendix A – 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet – “To support and strengthen collaborative community based research networks”, and the other goals in the document, were thought to be very general, and the committee struggled to understand precisely what research would be undertaken. The facilitation of community-based research appeared to be a main objective of what the proposed unit wished to achieve. The procedures for applying and appointing members to the unit are not developed enough. Concern was expressed on whether 1 proposed PDF and 1 Director was sufficient critical mass for getting much done. Also, it was not clear where the salary for the PDF was coming from. Greater clarification on these issues is needed.

It was mentioned Professor Siegel be invited to the next meeting. Professor Pickering acknowledged Professor Siegel was available to be contacted by telephone during this meeting if the committee had questions for him to address concerning the application, but Professor Pickering wanted the group to have an opportunity to reflect on the proposal and recommended the committee wait to invite him to the next meeting until after questions had been compiled for him to address.

Some concerns about the proposal were discussed and are as follows;

- It was noted there was uncertainty whether Research Unit is the best title – it was felt that maybe it should be named Research Institute

- It was questioned whether this Research Unit should report to Vice-President Research office
- Where will the funding for the Post Doctoral Fellow come from
- What kind of research is being talked about in the Operating Plan under activities
- Concern was expressed about low critical mass with just one professor and one Post Doctoral Fellow. With only two people, one Director and one Post Doctoral Fellow, it was asked if the research expertise is able to put together that many reports on topics and other planned activities
- More information is needed on its compositions; how it will appoint its associate members. So that this will be developed further we need to know how applications will be evaluated as it is broad in what this will cover.
- How is the planned activity of this unit different from the research activities of other units/centres/institutes that do community-based research or incorporate the community in their research?

The roles of the heads that will come together is not fully understood. The Community Advisory Committee is a nice mix of people with different backgrounds, but there were concerns expressed regarding the Lifespan Development group and the University Advisory Committee. An Observatory can be very good for us, but it needs more defined goals and how to project it into the community. It needs definition and a backup of people in the area required. A concern is that we do not want to get a bad reputation from this.

Questions will be compiled for Professor Siegel to address at next meeting

**THAT** the discussion be tabled to next meeting

**MOVED** (El-Hoss/Brindle)

**CARRIED**

**ACTION** Professor Pickering will meet with Professor Siegel prior to the next meeting and provide him with questions and concerns of the committee and invite him to the next meeting

**6. Updates and Information Items**

None

**7. Other Business**

Dr. Vasseur noted the research grant-in-lieu of salary application has been revised to update it. She inquired if when a form needs revision whether it should come through the committee to change it. It was felt that these sorts of administrative decisions should stay with the Office of the VP Research. The Revenue Canada information in the form will be checked to ensure it follows their guidelines.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> - 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> - 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> - 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 1:30pm – 3:00pm

The above meeting will be held in the Research Services/Graduate Studies  
Boardroom (MC D350-L).

**8. Adjournment**

**MOVED** (Brindle/El-Hoss)

**THAT the meeting be adjourned**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 2:40pm