



Senate

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MINUTES OF MEETING #4 (2008-09)

**SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009, 10:00 AM

13<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**PRESENT:** Professor Paul Zelisko (Chair), Ms. Katie Cocchio, Professor Patricia Debly, Dr. Greg Finn, Professor Julian Kitchen, Professor Roberto Nickel, Professor Frances Owen, Professor Virginia Reh, Dean Marilyn Rose, Professor John Sivell, Dr. Philip Wright

Mr. Patrick Beard, Ms. Jill Grose, Dr. Liette Vasseur, Margaret Thompson  
(Administrative Support)

**GUESTS:** Ms. Judith Brooder, Manager, Students With DisABILITIES  
Ms. Margaret Sanderson, Accessibility Coordinator

**REGRETS:** Professor Mohamed Ayadi, Dr. Karen Bordonaro, Professor Maureen Connolly, Ms. Margaret Grove, Interim Dean Anna Lathrop, Mr. Kurtis McCartney

**1. Approval of Minutes**

[The minutes of the previous meeting held on November 12, 2008 had been electronically distributed with the meeting materials.]

**MOVED** (Kitchen/Rose)

**That the minutes of Meeting #3 of the 2008-09 Teaching and Learning Policy Committee held on November 12, 2008 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

It was noted that a discussion regarding undergraduate degree learning expectations was to have been included on the agenda. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Beard noted that that following the November 12, 2008 meeting, two additional documents had been forwarded to members, namely, the Ontario Council of Academic Vice Presidents (OCAV) Guidelines for University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations and the institutional learning outcomes adopted by the University of Windsor.

A discussion ensued regarding the implementation of the OCAV guidelines in developing degree-level expectations at Brock. Dean Rose noted that she would forward to members information that had been provided to COU with respect to fine tuning OCAV's guidelines. Ms. Grose noted that assistance was also available through the CTLET and indicated that it may be beneficial to schedule a workshop with Peter Wolf (Associate Director of Teaching Support Service and Manager of Educational Development at the University of Guelph) who was a guest speaker at Brock's Annual Best Practices in Teaching conference.

It was emphasized that the guidelines should be forwarded to departments prior to the program review and prior to the development of new programs.

The Chair noted that although the previous minutes indicated that a discussion would be held today regarding capstone courses, the item would be deferred to a time when Professor Connolly would be in attendance.

Dean Rose indicated that the recommendation from Senate to CAD regarding context courses and the decanal approval process had yet to be discussed by CAD. Dean Rose agreed to follow-up.

**3. Report of the Chair - None**

**4. COU Academic Colleagues' Working Paper - Learning Disabilities: A Guide for Faculty at Ontario Universities**

The Chair welcomed Ms. Sanderson and Ms. Brooder to the meeting. He noted that at the 563<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Senate held on November 19, 2008, Senate Committees had been encouraged to review the Academic Colleagues' Working Paper *Learning Disabilities: A Guide for Faculty at Ontario Universities*.

The Committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion of the working paper in relation to Brock's current policies and procedures. Ms. Sanderson and Ms. Brooder addressed questions and received feedback from members regarding potential initiatives to enhance the policy and to raise awareness.

**5. University Grading Scheme - Continuation of Discussion**

Professor Zelisko noted that, unfortunately, the Registrar had been unable to attend today's meeting for the discussion. He also noted that he would be attending a meeting of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee for a discussion regarding the potential to include class averages on transcripts and would report back to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the potential of putting forward a motion to Senate regarding a change to the current grading system.

**MOVED** (Sivell/Kitchen)

**THAT the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee recommend to Senate that a whole number grading scheme with the exception of utilizing a mark of “49” be implemented.**

During the ensuing discussion, it was concurred that it would be beneficial to discuss the issue with the Registrar prior to bringing a recommendation to Senate. A sub-committee was struck consisting of Dean Rose, Professor Nickel, Professor Reh and Ms. Grose to further discuss the proposed change with the Registrar. The sub-committee would report back at the next meeting.

**MOVED** (Sivell/Kitchen)

**THAT the motion be TABLED and be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Committee.**

**CARRIED**

**5. NSSE Analyses**

[The *Benchmark Item Comparisons Between Returning Students and Non-Returning Students* dated January 30, 2009 and the *Analysis of Institutional Core Questions 2006 vs. 2008* dated January 30, 2009 had been distributed with the meeting materials.]

Mr. Beard provided an overview of the NSSE reports provided for the information of the Committee. During discussion, he responded to questions.

It was noted that with respect to Brock’s five highest and five lowest performing areas as outlined in the NSSE Executive Snapshot (previously distributed to the Committee and available at <http://www.brocku.ca/carp/nsse.php>), the data had been broken down by faculty level and was currently being further drilled down to the department level. Mr. Beard would forward the faculty level data to members following the meeting. As well, the students’ written comments would be distributed.

**7. Other Business**

Dean Rose related that Trent University had implemented a new initiative entitled “Trent Reads 2008” during which new students are asked to read a specific novel prior to orientation and then come prepared to discuss the novel in seminars during orientation week. The initiative had been well received. She questioned if Brock would be interested in adopting a similar initiative and agreed to provide additional information to the Committee at the next meeting.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.