



MINUTES OF MEETING #3 (2008-09)

SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008, 3:00 PM

SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Paul Zelisko (Chair), Dr. Karen Bordonaro (Vice-Chair),
Professor Mohamed Ayadi, Ms. Katie Cocchio, Professor Maureen Connolly,
Professor Patricia Debly, Dr. Greg Finn, Professor Julian Kitchen,
Professor Roberto Nickel, Dean Marilyn Rose, Dr. Philip Wright

Mr. Patrick Beard, Margaret Thompson (Administrative Support)

REGRETS: Dr. Terry Boak, Ms. Margaret Grove, Interim Dean Anna Lathrop, Mr. Kurtis McCartney,
Professor Frances Owen, Professor Virginia Reh, Professor John Sivell

1. Call to Order

Professor Zelisko welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

[The minutes of the previous meeting held on October 22, 2008 had been electronically distributed with the meeting materials.]

An amendment to the minutes was recorded to include an expression of thanks to Margaret Grove for facilitating the tour of the Matheson Learning Commons.

MOVED (Ayadi/Kitchen)

That the minutes of Meeting #2 of the 2008-09 Teaching and Learning Policy Committee held on October 22, 2008 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. Report of the Chair

Professor Zelisko related that the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee had received a request from the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee for feedback regarding a potential change to transcripts to include the average or median class grade and class size. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

During deliberations, the following was noted:

- intent of additional information on transcript is to assist with external interpretation of grades;
- class size can be measured in different ways; need to clarify measurement
- inclusion of class average or median is strongly supported by graduate studies;
- recording median mark rather than class average may be more advantageous and recording class size may not add value;
- there are 4 other Ontario universities that include either average or median grade on transcripts;
- listing of average grade may be misleading as marks differ depending on the group of learners, size of class, the instructor; marking schemes;
- discussion of potential changes to transcripts would correlate with discussion of current grading system;

The Chair would provide the Committee's feedback to the Chair of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee.

4. University Grading Scheme - *Continuation of Discussion*

Dean Rose reported that the graduate studies sector strongly endorsed the utilization of raw grades as opposed to the current 0-2-5-8 grading scheme and supported the inclusion of recording the class average or median mark on the transcript.

Following further discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of a potential change to the current grading system, it was suggested and concurred by members and the Chair of Senate that a time-limited discussion be held at the next meeting of Senate to gain additional feedback regarding how the current system is viewed and what changes, if any, should be further examined.

5. NSSE Executive Snapshot

[The National Survey of Student Engagement - Executive Snapshot 2008 - Brock University had been electronically distributed with the meeting materials.]

Mr. Beard reviewed the National Survey of Student Engagement - Executive Snapshot 2008 - Brock University for the information of the Committee. He responded to questions and expanded on next steps. A discussion developed regarding capstone courses, learning outcomes and undergraduate degree level expectations. It was agreed that this topic would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Beard noted that he had information from the University of Windsor and the Ontario Council of Academic Vice Presidents that he would forward to members following the meeting.

6. Process to Formalize Approval of New Context Courses (Follow-up of motion referred to CAD at Senate 552)

Professor Zelisko noted that there was an outstanding matter from the previous year. At Senate 552 held on October 17, 2007, the following recommendation had been presented from the 2007-08 Teaching and Learning Policy Committee: *That Senate approve the designation of any new*

context course (whether a humanities context course, a science context course, or a social science context course) be first approved by the dean of the related faculty (thus the Dean of Humanities for any new humanities context course, the Dean of Mathematics and Science for any science context course, or the Dean of Social Sciences for any social sciences context course). During Senate's discussion, concerns were expressed regarding the proposed decanal approval process and the recommendation was referred to the Committee of Academic Deans for further consideration and to report back to Senate through the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee.

As the Chair was unaware if CAD had considered the matter, Dean Rose agreed to follow-up with CAD and would report back to the Committee.

7. Other Business - None

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.