



MINUTES OF MEETING #4 (2006-07)

**SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006, 3:00 PM

SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Maureen Connolly (Chair), Mr. Patrick Beard, Professor Irene Blayer, Dr. Terry Boak, Dean Ian Brindle, Professor Rick Cheel (Vice-Chair), Mr. Mike Farrell (Recorder), Professor William Mathie, Professor Stan Sadava, Dean David Siegel, Professor Mary Louise Vanderlee

REGRETS: Professor Donald Brown, Professor Debra Inglis, Mr. Damien O'Brien

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting #3 (2006-07) held November 8, 2006 were circulated prior to the meeting.

**MOVED** (Sadava/Vanderlee)

**That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting #3 (2006-07) held November 8, 2006 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**2. Revisions to FHB II: 9.6.1 Graduate Studies Committee Terms of Reference**

Chair Connolly informed the Committee that the Graduate Studies Office had responded to the suggested amendments from the Governance Committee to the Graduate Studies Terms of Reference and recommended two changes. The Committee agreed with the recommended changes and will now forward the revised draft to Senate for its consideration.

**MOVED** (Vanderlee/Blayer)

**That FHB II: 9.6.1 Graduate Studies Committee Terms of Reference be approved as amended and forwarded to Senate for its consideration.**

**CARRIED**

### 3. Graduate Studies Committee - Motions to Senate

Chair Connolly explained that the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee had requested clarification regarding the various types of items that are brought to Senate for approval and for information. There is some inconsistency in relation to items presented to Senate by the Undergraduate Program Committee. The Undergraduate Program Committee presents to Senate for approval new programs and majors, calendar entries and additions or deletions to the course bank that change program requirements. Information items presented to Senate include additions or deletions to the course bank do not change program requirements.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Chair Connolly would meet with the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee to develop clear procedures for approval and information items being presented to Senate. She will report back to the Committee on this matter.

### 4. UPAC Report - Sub-committee Review Update

Mr. Beard provided background on the Draft Response to the UPAC Report dated December 12, 2006. He noted the two changes that were suggested to the report by the Committee of Academic Deans. The Undergraduate Program Committee would also be reviewing the Report. The responsibility of the Governance Committee and Senate rests with the "rigorous attention to the efficacy of the review process" and not with content oversight. The Governance Committee will present the Draft Report to Senate following receipt of the response from the Undergraduate Program Committee.

**MOVED** (Cheel/Sadava)

**That the Governance Committee accept the Draft Response to the UPAC Report dated December 12, 2006 and that it be forwarded to Senate for consideration.**

**CARRIED**

### 5. Definition of the term "Designate" for Senate Committees

Dr. Boak informed the Committee of the discussion with the Committee of Academic Deans regarding the definition of the term "designate" as used for Senate Committee membership. It was noted, and the Committee agreed, that the term should be changed to "Dean's Alternate". It would be the responsibility of the each Dean to designate an alternate Dean if they could not attend a meeting. It was also suggested that, with two Deans on each Committee, they may wish to share the responsibility for attending meetings.

### 6. Review of Legal Opinion re Consult - Recommendation to Senate re the Presidential Search Process

Mr. Farrell distributed the legal opinion received in order to define and determine the intent of the word "consult" as used in the Faculty Handbook Section I under Procedures for the Appointment of the President and Vice-Chancellor. The *Brock University Act* gives the Board of Trustees the authority to appoint the President and Vice-Chancellor following "consultation" with Senate.

The Committee discussed the meaning of the word "consult" in consideration of the legal opinion and the implications and merits of a closed and an open search.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the preferred language in the Faculty Handbook could be "shall consult with Senate in camera regarding the *proposed candidate*" as opposed to the current wording "*chosen candidate*". It was agreed that the Senate representatives on the Committee on the Presidency should be given clear expectations about their role and the need to keep Senate informed during the process, within the limits of confidentiality and in camera procedures.

The Committee agreed that an open discussion will be held at Senate regarding the question of an open or closed search process. Any recommendation to the Board of Trustees from Senate would be given as advice. Mr. Farrell would also prepare a report on how other universities conduct their Presidential searches with respect to an open or closed process.

The legal opinion reports were collected by Mr. Farrell following the meeting.

#### **7. Draft Definition of a School for the FHB**

Chair Connolly distributed a draft definition of a School that she developed for discussion. She noted that Brock currently has a School of Fine and Performing Arts but there is no approved nomenclature or definition in the Faculty Handbook that would provide a consistent approach.

Following discussion about the function and the administrative and reporting structure of a School, the Committee agreed it was not necessary at this time to have a formal definition and agreed to defer the matter indefinitely.

#### **8. Budget Advisory Committee - Reconsider Mandate Issues**

Chair Connolly brought forward the issue of ensuring that there is financial support for proposed programs and whether a Senate Committee such as Budget Advisory should discuss logistical questions regarding the financial implications.

Dr. Boak stated that proposals for new programs should take into account the physical, capital and human resource requirements. A program should not be approved by a Dean or his office if it cannot be funded. It was suggested that faculty councils could provide one method of oversight for funding new programs.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to take no action at this time.

#### **9. Next meeting**

January 10, 2007

#### **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.