



MINUTES OF MEETING #5 (2006-07)

SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2007, 3:00 PM

SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Maureen Connolly (Chair), Professor Irene Blayer, Dean Ian Brindle, Professor Donald Brown, Professor Rick Cheel (Vice-Chair), Mr. Mike Farrell (Recorder), Dr. Jack Lightstone, Professor William Mathie, Mr. Damien O'Brien, Professor Stan Sadava, Professor Mary Louise Vanderlee

REGRETS: Mr. Patrick Beard, Dr. Terry Boak, Dean David Siegel

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting #4 (2006-07) held December 13, 2006 were circulated prior to the meeting.

MOVED (Sadava/Vanderlee)

That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting #4 (2006-07) held December 13, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Honorary Degree Nominations

[During the *in camera* session, a confidential report regarding Honorary Degree Nominations dated January 10, 2007 was distributed to the Committee.]

The Chair noted that a motion was required to move *in camera*.

MOVED (O'Brien/Sadava)

That the Governance Committee move *in camera*.

CARRIED

The Committee moved *in camera* at 3:08 p.m.

The Committee resumed **open session** at 3:40 p.m.

[During the *in camera* session, the Committee discussed Honorary Degree nominations. Following the discussion, the confidential reports were returned to Mr. Farrell.]

3. Date for Senate Discussion Regarding an Open or Closed Presidential Search Process

Chair Connolly provided background noting that during Senate 533 held December 7, 2005, a motion was passed which expressed Senate's concern about the Presidential appointment procedures and whether the procedures were followed. The Governance Committee was directed to review these two issues and to report back to Senate while respecting the boundaries of confidentiality imposed by in camera restraints. Article 11 a) of the *Brock University Act* gives the Board of Trustees the authority to appoint the President and Vice-Chancellor following consultation with Senate.

Mr. Farrell shared the results of a survey of Canadian universities which showed that a large majority conduct closed Presidential searches.

The Committee agreed to ask for the input of Senate and would provide notice during Senate 545 to be held January 24, 2007 that, during Senate 546 to be held February 28, 2007, the Chair of Senate will moderate a discussion regarding the question of whether a Presidential search should be an open or closed confidential process. Any recommendation to the Board of Trustees from Senate on this matter would be given as advice.

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.

4. Graduate Studies Committee - Motions to Senate

Chair Connolly informed the Committee that she will be meeting with the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee to clarify the various types of items that are brought to Senate for approval and for information. There is currently some inconsistency in relation to items presented to Senate in comparison to 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 that do not change program requirements.

Chair Connolly stated that she would work with the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee to develop clear procedures for approval and information items being presented to Senate from the Graduate Studies Committee and incorporate these into the Committee's mandate. These clarifications will be presented at the next Governance Committee meeting and then be forwarded to Senate for information.

5. 2007 Senate Election Date and Nomination of Scrutineers

Mr. Farrell explained that Senate by-laws (FHB II: 3.4.1 and 3.4.2) require that the election of Full-Time Teaching Staff and Professional Librarians to Senate shall take place during the last week of March and that Senate shall agree, on the recommendation of the Secretary of Senate, to the date on which the Senate election shall take place. Senate also appoints, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, two Senators who are not standing for election to serve as scrutineers for the election. Mr. Farrell would be recommending to Senate that the Spring 2007 Senate election be held on Friday, March 30.

MOVED (Sadava/O'Brien)

That Senators Mary Louise Vanderlee and Rick Cheel be appointed as scrutineers for the Senate election to be held March 30, 2007.

CARRIED

6. Electronic Voting for Senate Elections

Mr. Farrell informed the Committee that he is exploring methods of electronic voting for Senate elections. He noted that any system used would need to ensure confidentiality, indicate to the individual that their vote has been counted, disallow any attempts for a second vote by someone, be easy to use and affordable. He will continue to explore options and report back to the Committee. No action will be taken if all of the criteria above are not met.

7. Faculty Handbook Amendments Under Development

a) FHB II: 5 - Undergraduate Student Senate Election Timelines

Mr. O'Brien circulated a report titled *Amendments to Faculty Handbook re: Undergraduate Student Elections* which outlines the proposed amendments to FHB II: 5 which would align the current practice for students elected to Senate with the timing of the general Senate election and with the Brock University Students' Administrative Council (BUSAC) elections legislation. The proposed amendments would also be presented to BUSAC on January 15, prior to the next Senate meeting. Mr. O'Brien will notify Mr. Farrell when the proposed amendments have been reviewed by BUSAC.

MOVED (O'Brien/Vanderlee)

That FHB II: 5 be amended as outlined in the report *Amendments to Faculty Handbook re: Undergraduate Student Elections* and that, pending the approval of BUSAC, the report be presented to Senate for its consideration.

CARRIED

b) FHB II: 6.2 - Addition to Clarify Role of Committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Secretaries

Chair Connolly explained that she will work with Mr. Farrell to draft a report for the Committee's consideration regarding FHB II: 6.2 that will include a section to clarify the roles and responsibilities of Senate Committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Secretaries.

c) FHB II: 8.2 - Update Regarding Committee Responsibilities

As a result of Senate restructuring, FHB II: 8.2 *Amendments to the Faculty Handbook* should be reviewed by the Governance Committee explained Chair Connolly. In this section, each Senate Committee is given responsibility for recommending amendments to the FHB and to ensure that current policy and practice approved by Senate is accurately reflected. The Governance Committee should conduct the review to ensure that the appropriate Committees are assigned to the various sections of the FHB.

d) FHB III: Replace Section 5.2.4 Academic Programs for Students with Disabilities with the Academic Accommodation Process for Students with Disabilities Policy

FHB III: 5.2.4 Academic Programs for Students with Disabilities will be replaced with the Academic Accommodation Process for Students with Disabilities policy as approved during Senate 544 held December 6, 2006. Chair Connolly stated that she will review the document with the Accessibility Co-ordinator to determine which policy sections are appropriate for the FHB. Other sections may be linked to the appropriate web page from the policy or compose part of departmental procedures.

Chair Connolly informed the Committee that another FHB issue for future consideration involves a potential change in the regulations related to Psychology program degree requirements.

8. Next meeting

February 14, 2007

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.