



MINUTES OF MEETING #7 (2007-08)

SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008, 3:00 PM

SANKEY CHAMBER, MACKENZIE CHOWN COMPLEX

PRESENT: Professor Rick Cheel (Chair), Professor Tansu Barker, Mr. Patrick Beard, Professor Irene Blayer, Dr. Terry Boak, Mr. Justin Carre, Professor Maureen Connolly, Mr. Mike Farrell (Recorder), Professor Greg Finn, Dean Martin Kusy, Dr. Jack Lightstone, Professor William Mathie, Mr. Tim Ribaric, Dean David Siegel, Professor Mary Louise Vanderlee

REGRETS: Mr. Damien O'Brien

Professor Cheel called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2007-08) meeting #6 held January 9, 2008 were circulated prior to the meeting.

MOVED (Barker/Vanderlee)

That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee (2007-08) meeting #6 held January 9, 2008 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Academic Program Reviews: a) Department of Sociology Self-Study, and b) Department of Economics Self-Study

Professor Finn and Dean Siegel provided background on both the Department of Sociology Self-Study and the Department of Economics Self-Study documents and responded to questions. It was noted that the Committee would be approving the description of those to be interviewed and not the specific names, in some cases, due to the availability of certain individuals when the interviews were scheduled.

MOVED (Siegel/Vanderlee)

That the Department of Sociology Self-Study and the Department of Economics Self-Study, and the list of those to be interviewed by the reviewers, be approved.

CARRIED

3. BROCK 2014: Knowledge, Engagement, Transformation - An Academic Plan for Brock University

Dr. Boak stated that during Senate 555 held January 23, 2008, a motion was passed stating that the draft document *Brock 2014: Knowledge, Engagement, Transformation - An Academic Plan for Brock* be shared with each Senate Committee and that any feedback, in relation to the individual Committee's mandate, be reported at the next meeting. The document was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

During discussion, several comments were made by Committee members related to the document. A summary of the comments are appended to these minutes.

4. Report of the Sub-Committee re Honorary Degrees

The sub-committee reviewing the Honorary Degree process and criteria did not have an opportunity to meet, along with the President, prior to this meeting. The sub-committee may provide a report at the next meeting of the Committee.

5. Organizational Nomenclature Review

A summary report drafted by Professor Cheel for the organizational nomenclature review was circulated to the Committee. The report outlined the current nomenclature for academic departments, centres and institutes and research units, centres and institutes, along with suggested terms for discussion.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Farrell would ask the Interim Associate Vice-President, Research if there is consistent nomenclature used for research administrative groupings within Universities across Canada and, if possible, to recommend some consistent language. The Committee would consider this input and discuss the issue further during its next meeting.

MOVED (Barker/Kusy)

That the Interim Associate Vice-President, Research be asked to determine if there is consistent nomenclature used for research administrative groupings within Universities across Canada and, if possible, to recommend to the Governance Committee consistent language for consideration.

CARRIED

6. Enforcement of the Faculty Handbook

This item will be considered during the next meeting of the Committee.

7. Composition of the Budget Advisory Committee

The Budget Advisory Committee held its inaugural meeting of the 2007-08 year on January 15, 2008 and forwarded two items to the Governance Committee for consideration, as follows:

- i) That the Governance Committee be requested to examine a potential amendment to the Terms of Reference which would, in future, require the Vice-Chair of Senate to serve as the Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee.
- ii) That the Governance Committee be requested to amend the composition of the Budget Advisory Committee to include a graduate student representative.

The composition of the Budget Advisory Committee includes the Chair or Vice-Chair of each Senate Committee, with the exception of the Student Appeals Board, one of whom shall serve as Chair and one as Vice-Chair. All Faculties are to be represented on the Committee. Due to the composition of the Committee, which is unlike other Senate Committees, the Chair is not normally selected until the first meeting.

The Committee discussed the request that the Vice-Chair of Senate serve as Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee and the following motion was presented.

MOVED (Barker/Connolly)

That the Vice-Chair of Senate serve as the Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee.

LOST

It was agreed that the Committee should be allowed to elect its own Chair and that the Vice-Chair of Senate would already have an increased workload as an ex officio member of several other Committees.

MOVED (Mathie/Blayer)

That the Chair or Vice-Chair of Senate annually convene the inaugural meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee and oversee the election of the Committee Chair and that FHB II: 9.4.2 be amended accordingly.

CARRIED

In consideration of the request to amend the composition of the Budget Advisory Committee to include a graduate student representative, the following motion was presented.

MOVED (Vanderlee/Connolly)

That the composition of the Budget Advisory Committee be amended to include an undergraduate and a graduate student member and that FHB II: 9.4.2 be amended accordingly.

CARRIED

The Terms of Reference of the Budget Advisory Committee currently includes at least one student member. With this amendment, the composition would be revised to specifically include both an undergraduate and graduate student member.

8. Other business

There was no other business

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Summary of Comments Senate Governance Committee Meeting Held January 30, 2008

At its meeting held January 30, 2008, the Governance Committee of Senate discussed the draft document *BROCK 2014: Knowledge, Engagement, Transformation – An Academic Plan for Brock University*, as requested by Senate on January 23, 2008. The following are the salient points from the discussion.

A concern was expressed that there are not enough full-time faculty to meet the demands of additional graduate programs and an increase the number of graduate students to 12% of the total student population by 2014. The President responded that we need not rely only upon current graduate programs to achieve this growth target.

The challenge in Ontario is that the FTE student to faculty ratio is high, particularly at Brock. While it is understood that there is a need to grow graduate programs, more resources are required in order for this strategy to be effective.

There are current constraints in graduate programs related to support for students and faculty, and a shortage of research and classroom space.

There are workload issues created by more graduates students in order to provide adequate supervision and other services.

Brock's relationship with the community has improved over the years and this should continue.

The increase in admission averages is positive as there is a focus on quality, not quantity in reference to:

Increase admission averages to Brock to 80% minimum for certain programs and to 75% for all other programs by 2014 (page 5)

It is important to keep the level of quality high during this transition.

Why list only three faculties on page 5 re multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary undergraduate programs? Consider looking at all faculties in this section and removing the word "undergraduate". The word "interdisciplinary" may need clarification as to its meaning in this context. The problem areas need to be identified, not just state 5% overall. We silo graduate students which does not encourage an interdisciplinary approach. A better word to use may be "convergence". The Lifespan Centre is an example of convergence.

As the University enrolls more graduate students it will change the balance and affect how undergraduate education is delivered. There will be more senior graduate students to work with undergraduate students.

At the TA level, graduate students may not be familiar with small group dynamics, marking and facilitating. They may need greater supervision which leads to greater management pressures.

Larger numbers brings challenges right down to a practical everyday level of operation that worked for a few students but may not be as effective with a larger number of students.

This is an aspirational document i.e. what we aspire to. The next step will be the “how” to achieve these objectives.

If we are to attract more graduate students, the University needs to focus on reputation and quality. This will be the challenge as Brock is relatively new to graduate studies. There is a need not only to market the University more effectively, but also to determine what is effectively marketable.