Brock University
Senate
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2S 3A1
T: 905-688-5550, Ext. 3334 F: 905-688-9754
www.brocku.ca

TO: Mike Farrell
Secretary of Senate

FROM: Barry Wright, Chair
Research and Scholarship Policy Committee

DATE: May 25, 2007

Research and Scholarship Policy Committee
2006-07 Annual Report to Senate

Members of the 2006-07 Research and Scholarship Policy Committee were:

Judy Maiden	Bozidar Mitrovic	Tamara El-Hoss
Lynn Rempel	Sandra Bosacki	Linda Rose-Krasnor
Bulent Menguc	Marla Nasello	Michelle Green
Stan Sadava	Terry Boak	Michael Owen
Fran Chandler	Marilyn Rose	Dave Siegel
Margaret Grove	Patricia Debly	Barry Wright

The mandate of the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee is as follows:

The Research and Scholarship Policy Committee develops policy to support Full-time Teaching Staff, Professional Librarians and students in the performance of their responsibilities, including but not limited to research and scholarship, conceived of as mutually supporting and informing activities.

The Senate Research and Scholarship Policy Committee:

a) considers and advises on policy regarding research and scholarship in the University;
b) advises on computing and communications policy as they relate to the research and scholarship of Full-time Teaching Staff and Professional Librarians;
c) may advise on policy regarding the development and support of Full-time Teaching Staff and Professional Librarian careers as it relates to research and scholarship;
d) recommends the recipient of the annual Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity to the Vice-President Academic and Provost;
e) advises the President, through Senate, on procedures for academic staff appointments, conditions for promotion and tenure, leaves and termination that are in the best interests of research and scholarship;
f) advises on library policy and issues as they relate to research and scholarship;
g) consults with the Associate Vice-President, Research Services, Full-time Teaching Staff and Professional Librarians regarding the enhancement of research and scholarly opportunities;
h) informs departments, Full-time Teaching Staff and Professional Librarians of the current standards, policies and guidelines in research;
i) reviews and advises on research ethics policy;
j) maintains liaison with appropriate University-wide committees which pertain to research and scholarship.

The Research and Scholarship Policy Committee met nine times during the 2006-07 academic year while our sub-committees met many additional times. A full review of our activities can be seen on the University website; however, I would like to summarize a number of our key actions.

The Committee:

1) reviewed and made recommendations for adjustments to three University policies – Radiation Safety, Animal Care and Use, and Postdoctoral Fellows policy and procedures.
2) reviewed and made recommendations for adjustments to the University Strategic Research Plan.
3) reviewed and made recommendations to Senate regarding the establishment of the Lifespan Development Research Institute.
4) will review, at its next meeting, the Intellectual Property policy and procedure.
5) discussed the possible effects on research and scholarship that might occur due to the 3 – 6% cutbacks in funding.

To help facilitate the growing research and scholarship culture at the University, the Committee formed sub-committees to focus on targeted areas. These sub-committees were:

a) Best Practices – this subcommittee's focus was to draw upon best practices strategies (from other universities or from individual Faculties at Brock) to adapt these best practices across the University. At present, this group is working towards the development of an on-line data base to foster interdisciplinary collaboration (both internal and external to the University) and to assist University communication for promotional purposes. In addition, this sub-committee is developing a research mentoring program as well as developing additional support mechanisms to enhance Brock researcher's ability to secure external grants. To date, two work shops have been set up to run later this year.
b) Recognition – this sub-committee is working on fostering a recognition process that will afford greater recognition (internally and externally) for researchers from the University. The goal is to enhance the reputation of both individual researchers and the University. A number of initiatives are being considered and will be fully developed next year.
c) Financial – this subcommittee was struck recognizing the need for obtaining greater resources for research at the University. In the short-term, the sub committee is examining the resources presently allocated for research at the University to first understand how we are supporting research.

In closing, as a new committee we spent the first few meetings sorting out how we could enhance research and scholarship at the University. The collective committee did an excellent job of focusing on the managing the policy process but in also fulfilling our mandate to look at ways to enhance the Brock research and scholarship environment. I believe the committee is set to take some excellent strides in this direction next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Barry Wright
Chair, Research and Scholarship Policy Committee