

**MINUTES OF MEETING #5 (2006- 2007) OF THE
SENATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP POLICY COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, 2007 AT 9:30AM - 11:00AM
IN MC D350-L**

PRESENT: Dr. Barry Wright (Chair), Dr. Sandra Bosacki, Ms. Frances Chandler, Mr. Ron Dubien, Ms. Michelle Green, Dr. Tamara El Hoss, Ms. Pam Jacobs, Dr. Bozidar Mitrovic (Vice-Chair), Dr. Michael Owen, Dr. Linda Rose-Krasnor, Dr. Stan Sadava, Ms. Judy Maiden (Recorder)

REGRETS: Dr. Terry Boak, Dr. Bulent Menguc

ARRIVED AFTER MEETING START:

Dr. Marilyn Rose, Dr. Patricia Debly, Dr. Lynn Rempel, Dr. David Siegel

Introductions / Welcome

(Chair: Barry Wright)

1. Approval of Agenda with Additions

Motion: That the agenda be accepted with the following addition:
Discussion of memo from Social Justice Committee

MOVED: (Rose-Krasnor/Bosacki)

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as circulated.

MOVED: (Rose-Krasnor/Bosacki)

CARRIED

3. Business Arising

Sub-committee Reports on S.M.A.R.T. goals and updates;

a.1 Best Practices Subcommittee (Sandra Bosacki)

This committee met in January and plans to meet monthly to review two main goals:

- 1) to conduct research into the usefulness of an interdisciplinary data base for accessing information on research being done at Brock and to serve as a platform for on-line discussion for the purposes of grant writing and other forms of collaboration; and
- 2) to promote a mentoring program that will include release time for faculty members who take on this role.

a.2 Interdisciplinary/Networking Subcommittee (P. Jacobs)
The goals of this committee were similar to the ones noted above in relation to methods of connecting faculty researchers.

a.3 Raising our Profile Subcommittee (Ron Dubien)
The goals of this committee were similar to the ones noted above in relation to methods of connecting faculty researchers.

ACTION: Pam and Ron to meet with the Best Practises Sub committee to discuss areas of overlap and co-ordination.

a.3 Recognition Sub Committee (Michael Owen)

Goal 1: To encourage faculty members, Chairs, Deans and others to nominate Brock researchers for prestigious awards.

3. b Report on the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission site visit

(Michael Owen)

A site visit was made to Brock by two visitors from CNSC. Apart from some minor items, the inspection was successful. Contrary to last year when it was noted that record keeping needed was lax as were practises related to the eating and storing of food in the lab. Our excellent review is in part attributable to the hiring of a Radiation Safety Officer and his attention to ensuring adherence to accepted practises.

3. c Letter from Social Justice Committee (Linda Rose-Krasnor and Stan Sadava)

It was agreed that further discussion was needed in regard to this committee's response to the letter received from the Social Justice Committee in light of some negative feedback during the last month about our response when it was tabled at our last meeting. At that time it was decided that we acknowledge receipt of the memo with no further action.

ACTION: This committee would formulate a motion in conjunction with a preamble regarding the value this institution places on academic freedom such as follows:

Preamble: Pursuant to BUFA article 11 regarding academic freedom, this committee acknowledges the right of each faculty member to chose and pursue an area of research "without deference to prescribed doctrine." In addition, members of this committee support the BUFA agreement and its statement regarding the responsibility of each faculty member to

ensure he/she does not "infringe or abridge the academic freedom of any member of the university community".

MOVED: (Rose-Krasnor/Mitrovic)

Motion: That the Senate Committee on Research and Scholarship Policy supports Brock University investigators who conduct research with animals, in which the research is conducted within guidelines established by the Canadian Council on Animal Care and the Brock Animal Care and Use Committee, and to conduct their research free from harassment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- **New Business**

- a. Review Policy – Radiation Safety Policy & Procedures (Barry Wright)

The policy was reviewed by committee members. Discussion ensued and suggestions made as follows:

ACTION:

The policy should include a statement regarding the type of training needed for those involved in safety issues related to radioactivity.
Adherence to safe guidelines needs to be a collaborative effort on the part of staff, students, and researchers.

- b. Strategic Research Plan

(Michael Owen)

Comments were as follows:

- Clarity is needed as to the audience for this report, its purpose, its role in the acquisition and placement of Canada Research Chairs and funding from Canada Foundation for Innovation.
- Need more information on the process that led to this report and how and why these thematic areas were chosen.
- Inclusion of the physics department in the report needs to be changed from its current place to others associated with Science.
- Make it more inclusive....more salient to individuals in the community.
- Technology needs to be included in an appropriate place in the report such as under the infrastructure section.

ACTION: Michael Owen to make changes to the SRP and post on the AVPR web site. Committee members are to review the report for grammar, spelling, content etc. and send comments via email or other, to Michael Owen.

- Updates and Information Items

In light of the current discussions regarding possible 3-6% cutbacks in funding, the committee discussed the actual amount available for cutting (about 20% of the budget after fixed costs are considered) and the fallout from cutbacks to the research enterprise at the university.

- Cutbacks in the budget would most likely affect faculty member's ability to attend conferences, take part in training, undertake research projects and ultimately result in faculty retention issues.
- Research should be seen as an investment, not a cost. It brings money and prestige to the university.
- Perhaps we need to think of the kinds of political action we should engage in to indicate our displeasure to those who have influence in funding of universities.
- We should be thinking about engaging faculty members in active fundraising by having them speak at community functions talking about their research and the impact should it be stopped.
- Perhaps on speaking engagements, the university president could bring along researchers and students to discuss their research projects.

Motion: That faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students, and research assistants be invited to engage in fundraising and community outreach.

MOVED: (Sadava/Green)

CARRIED

THIS MOTION WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE PRESIDENT FOR CONSIDERATION

ACTION:

- Other Business

Brock has received an allocation of one post doctoral fellow. Faculty members will need to supply 50% of the cost. The deadline is March and an internal review committee will be set up to create a selection process to determine which application will go forward to the Ministry of Research and Innovation. It needs to be science based.

- Date of Next Meetings:

Monday, April 9th from 10:00am – 11:30am

Monday, May 14th from 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Wednesday, June 13th from 10:00am – 11:30am

All of the above meetings will be held in MC D350-L
(Research Services/Graduate Studies Boardroom)

- Adjournment 11:00am