



MINUTES OF MEETING #4 (2007-08)

SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008, 11:00 AM

BOARD ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, SCHMON TOWER

PRESENT: Professor John Sivell (Chair), Professor Anna Lathrop (Vice-Chair), Professor Mohamed Ayadi, Dr. Terry Boak, Professor Maureen Connolly, Dean John Corlett, Professor Patricia Debly, Dr. Greg Finn, Ms. Margaret Grove, Ms. Victoria Howerton, Professor Julian Kitchen, Professor Tom O'Neill, Dean Marilyn Rose, Professor Paul Zelisko

Mr. Patrick Beard, Ms. Margaret Thompson (Recorder)

REGRETS: Ms. Karen Bordonaro, Ms. Iva Mathews

Professor Sivell welcomed members and called the meeting to order. He introduced Ms. Victoria Howerton who had recently been appointed as the undergraduate student Senator to the Committee.

1. Approval of Minutes

[The minutes of the Meeting #3 held on December 19, 2007 had been electronically distributed with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Zelisko/O'Neill)

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee held on December 19, 2007 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Report of the Chair

Professor Sivell reported that at the 555th meeting of Senate held January 23, 2008, Senate considered the recommendations and approved the motions with slight amendments. Specifically the title "Literacy and Numeracy" was changed to "Literacy in English and Numeracy" and to ensure clarity, the motion regarding the addition of two extra days was amended to read as follows: THAT Senate approve that for the 2008-09 academic year, two extra days be added at the end of the fall term for those ~~faculties~~ courses with lab-based components **requiring physical set-up**.

As well, Senate had approved the Student Medical Certificate, which had been reviewed by the Committee.

3. Learning Management Systems

Professor Connolly provided an update on the work undertaken by the task force struck to examine alternate learning management systems to WebCT. As the University's contract with Blackboard expires in June 2009, she noted that it was advisable that a decision from the University be made prior to June 2008 to assist with the transition. Currently, the task force has been examining the pros and cons of remaining with a vendor-based product versus changing to an open-source product. Two examples of open source learning management systems currently being explored are Sakai and Moodle. The data from a survey undertaken of those faculty and students trialing the Sakai open source system were currently being analyzed. During discussion, it was further noted that server capacity could be an issue whatever learning management system decision was eventually made.

MOVED (Corlett/Zelisko)

THAT the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee recommend that the Director of the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies present a written comparison report to Senate at its next meeting on February 13, 2008 outlining the potential strengths, weaknesses, costs, and transitional issues of the available options regarding learning management systems, and that a time-limited discussion be held.

CARRIED

While the Committee recognized that the final decision would rest with senior administration, it was noted that it was important that Senate, along with other constituencies, be provided an opportunity to participate in the discussion and provide input for consideration.

4. **BROCK 2014: KNOWLEDGE, ENGAGEMENT, TRANSFORMATION An Academic Plan for Brock University ***

[The document BROCK 2014: KNOWLEDGE, ENGAGEMENT, TRANSFORMATION An Academic Plan for Brock University had been electronically distributed with the meeting materials.]

Professor Sivell referred members to the draft academic plan. He noted that Senate had requested that each Committee review the draft plan and provide feedback in relation to the Committee's mandate.

Dr. Boak provided an overview of the draft plan which outlined the future academic directions for the University. The Committee examined the plan in detail and during discussion; Dr. Boak responded to questions and received feedback from members. Comments included the following:

- While several number targets and projections were high, they appeared feasible and desirable;

- Reference to promote innovative course delivery methods, which would require significant investment in technology and support personnel, may need to be included;
- May be beneficial to expand on the promotion of increased collaboration with colleges;
- Need to provide incentives and address constraints for obtaining/calculating sponsored research funding.
- May need to expand on the importance of collaborations between research and graduate studies;
- Need to improve how faculty sponsored research is obtained/calculated;

Dr. Boak encouraged members to submit their comments or additional feedback to him in writing.

5. Other Business - None

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.