



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: Gary Pickering, Chair, Research & Scholarship Policy Committee

DATE: May 19, 2009

REPORT TO SENATE 571, May 27th, 2009

The following items are reported for the information of Senate from the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee.

Members of the 2008-09 Senate Research and Scholarship Policy Committee were:

Gary Pickering (Chair)
 Tamara El-Hoss (Vice-Chair)
 Judy Maiden (Administrative Support)
 Melissa Barnard
 Terry Boak
 Sandra Bosacki
 Ian Brindle
 Frances Chandler
 Robert Eagle
 Margaret Grove
 Bulent Menguc
 Joffre Mercier
 Tim O'Connell
 Tom O'Neill
 Lynn Rempel
 Matthew Royal
 Marilyn Rose
 John Sivell
 Angus Smith
 Liette Vasseur

The mandate of the Committee is: to develop 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 Committee met seven times during the academic year 2008-09 while the various sub-committees met additional times. A full review of the Committee's activities can be seen on the University Senate website; in summary, the Committee:

1. Established 3 sub-committees: Raising Profile/Best Practices; Policies and Procedures, and Finance;
2. Reviewed and received clarifications regarding the establishment of the Research Unit for Global Education (RUGE) and forwarded the proposal on to Senate for informational purposes;
3. Reviewed and made recommendations to Senate regarding the establishment of the Niagara Community Observatory;
4. Begun the process of reviewing research centres and institutes whose terms have or are set to, expire;
5. Continues to review the Intellectual Property policy in collaboration with Brock Research;
6. Reviewed and asked for clarifications on a draft of a new Field and Safety Policy.

The Committee continues to receive regular updates from its sub-committees. Recent updates include the following:

Brock University Senate Research and Scholarship Policy Committee

Raising Profile/Best Practices Sub-committee Report

Submitted by R. Angus K. Smith, Department of Classics

May 12, 2009

The sub-committee is a combination of two sub-committees from last year: External Recognition/Raising Our Profile and Best Practices.

Membership in the committee included the following:

Melissa Barnard, Graduate Student, Dept. of Earth Sciences
 Sandra Bosacki, Faculty of Education
 Robert Eagle, Brock Research
 Carolyn Mullin, Brock Research
 Tom O'Neill, Child and Youth Studies
 R. Angus K. Smith, Dept. of Classics, *Chair*

The Raising Profile/Best Practices Sub-committee got off to a late start this year. So far we have met three times – Jan 28, March 4, and April 23 – and plan a 4th meeting in early June.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- *Branding exercise* – the committee wanted to make sure that Brock’s new branding exercise included a more prominent representation of research and researchers at Brock University
- *Researcher/expertise database* – the committee was interested in the status and implementation of the new researcher database, and had recommendations for Brock Research on how it might be improved in the future
- *Brock’s website* – the committee discussed the lack of prominence for Brock research on the university website, and was assured that it would play a more prominent role in the new website associated with the ‘Bold New Brock’ branding exercise
- *Faculty writing seminars* – the committee discussed the need for writing support to improve grant success at Brock University. It was suggested that seminars change their format to workshops where constructive criticism could be offered, and that the current systems for deciding what topics to offer, and for getting feedback about the seminars, need to become more effective
- *Brock Research* – in our final meeting we discussed ORS’s transformation into Brock Research, and Robert Eagle gave a report on various new initiatives by Brock Research specifically designed to raise the profile of Brock research and researchers. These include:
 - a full-time communications officer: Carolyn Mullin
 - the Brock Research Opportunities e-bulletin
 - including a member of Raising Profile in Brock Research strategy meetings
 - elimination of ‘Grant Officers’ in Brock Research and the new position of ‘Research Officers’
 - planned 1 press release per week

- Policies and Procedures

The subcommittee on policies and procedures has started to examine the wording of various Brock documents on Intellectual Property with the goal of generating a consistent document that can be used in the Faculty Handbook, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and the Collective Agreement. When the document is ready, it will be presented to the committee of the whole and should proceed to the committee for the joint management of the Agreement.

- Financial

No Report

In closing, the R&SP committee has had a productive session, although it has not achieved all that it had hoped for this academic year. Unfinished business that it suggests to the 09/10 R&SP committee as priority items include:

- Finalising a consistent Intellectual Property policy
 - Clarification and, if needed, re-evaluation of nomenclature and definitions for Brock's various types of research units
 - Complete review of research units
-