



TO: Mike Farrell, Secretary of Senate

FROM: Paul Zelisko, Department of Chemistry
Chair, Senate Teaching and Learning Policy Committee (2008-2009)

RE: Senate Teaching and Learning Policy Committee Annual Report (2008-2009)

DATE: May 19, 2009

The Senate Teaching and Learning Policy Committee examined a number of items that were brought forward for discussion. Some of the issues that were before the Committee this year included:

- The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), and more specifically the matters that our students report Brock University addresses quite well and the areas are still open for improvement
- The degree level expectations (DLEs) proposed by the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents (OCAV)
 - A sub-committee was struck to develop degree level expectations for Brock University
- A discussion of the Brock 0-2-5-8 grading system
- An initiative to include reading assignment for Orientation Week
- Process to formalize the adoption/creation of new Context Courses and recommendation forwarded to Senate.

The Brock grading system (0-2-5-8) was a discussion that had begun with last year's Committee and that this year saw Senate approve the transition to a grading system that would allow course instructors to assign whole number grades using any of the numbers between 0-100. There are still ongoing discussions with respect to Brock's own DLEs and the process for adopting and creating new Context Courses, and I am sure that next year's Committee will continue to address these important issues.

I would like to thank the members of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee for their spirited discussions and for their dedication to improving the teaching and learning environment at Brock University.

Lastly, but definitely not least, on behalf of the Committee I would like thank Margaret Thompson whose input and vast repository of knowledge of all things Senate helped our meetings run smoothly.