



MINUTES OF MEETING #5 (2007-08)

SENATE TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008, 11:00 AM

BOARD ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, SCHMON TOWER

PRESENT: Professor John Sivell (Chair), Professor Anna Lathrop (Vice-Chair), Professor Mohamed Ayadi, Ms. Karen Bordonaro, Professor Maureen Connolly, Dean John Corlett, Professor Patricia Debly, Ms. Victoria Howerton, Professor Julian Kitchen, Professor Tom O'Neill, Dean Marilyn Rose, Professor Paul Zelisko

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

REGRETS: Dr. Greg Finn, Ms. Margaret Grove, Ms. Iva Mathews

Professor Sivell welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

[The minutes of Meeting #4 held on January 30, 2008 had been electronically distributed with the meeting materials.]

MOVED (Zelisko/Howerton)

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee held on January 30, 2008 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Report of the Chair - None

3. University Grading Scheme

Professor Lathrop noted that in her role as Associate Dean, she had been made aware of questions/concerns that had arisen from students and faculty regarding the University's present system of numerical grades (FHB III: 10.3) and the rounding of the score, at the discretion of the instructor, to comply with the 0, 2, 5, 8 marking scheme to arrive at a final grade.

For the information of the Committee, Ms. Davis provided an overview of the history of the University's marking scale which has been in effect since 1967, although slightly modified during the years. It was noted that the rationale for the development of the scale included that it would permit the instructor to indicate whether the student comes high, low or in the middle of a grade.

Members engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the University's current grading system and a system that uses "raw" grades. The Committee concurred that it would be beneficial to gather preliminary feedback to determine if there was a need to reexamine the current system. Feedback would be sought from the Associate Deans (A. Lathrop), the Committee on Academic Deans (J. Corlett), Graduate Studies (M. Rose), and the Registrar's Office (B. Davis). As well, it was suggested that comparative information from other universities be examined. Both academic and practical implications would need to be closely considered, including the impact on scholarships, bursaries, transcript analysis / measurement of grades, finances, and information technology, to name a few.

Should, in future, a change in the grading system be warranted, it was noted that timing and the development of an implementation strategy would be critical factors.

4. Other Business

Professor Sivell related that he was recently made aware of a situation where a physician refused to complete the required Student Services Medical Disability form for a Brock student with a serious medical disability. In light of the recently approved Student Medical Certificate at Senate and the ensuing discussion regarding the potential for physicians to either refuse to complete the form and/or charge high fees for completing, Professor Sivell brought this forward as an issue that may need to be monitored.

In response to a question, Ms. Davis noted that the Student Medical Certificate had been forwarded to each Faculty to post on their website.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.