

MEMORANDUM

TO: Karen Roche, Secretary of Senate

FROM: Todd Randall, Chair Senate Budget Committee

RE: Part II – Report of the Senate Budget Committee for the May 15th, 2009 Senate Meeting

DATE: May 8, 2009

This is a second report (Part II) of the Senate Budget Committee concerning its deliberations and recommendations concerning the University’s proposed Operating Budget for 2009-10, three new programs for the Orillia campus and some smaller outstanding items not reported in Part I of the SBC report to Senate dated May 6, 2009.

Items pertaining to the March 20th, 2009 Senate Meeting

1. Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

(a) Geoarcheology

This item was previously tabled pending its review by S USC. S USC made a number of small recommendations to the Department of Anthropology. It is noteworthy that the decision to cancel the field school component of the program reflects the inability of the Department to cover costs because of low course enrolments over the past five years. The Committee recommends that Senate approve this Calendar change.

Items pertaining to the April 17th, 2009 Senate Meeting

2. Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

(a) Political Science - Addition of HBA (Political Science Major) Pre-Law

There was discussion both at SBC and at S USC that the proposed change had been mis-labeled. The new program does not reflect a major in “Pre-Law” but rather should have been labeled as “HBA (Political Science Major) Pre-Law” reflecting that the proposal was for a **concentration** in Pre-Law. After consultations with the S USC Chair and a representative from the Department of Political Science (L. Paquette) and clarification from the Director of Institutional Analysis and Government Relations, the Senate Budget Committee recommends that Senate approve this Calendar change.

(b) Political Science - Special Seminar on Law

This proposed course represents an essential piece of the proposed HBA (Political Science Major) Pre-Law program that was discussed in item 2(a). The Department of Political Science (i.e., via communications between the SBC Chair and L. Paquette) is firmly committed to offering this course and program and requires no additional financial resources to offer either. The Committee recommends that Senate approve this Calendar change with the proviso that funding to offer this course is available within the existing budget of the Department of Political Science and/or the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

3. Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

(a) Majors in Anthropology, English and Geography

The three relevant Deans (i.e., K. Fedderson, G. Siddall, and A.P. Dean) to this proposed change were present at the SBC meeting of May 5, 2009. K. Fedderson presented a detailed budget plan for the Orillia campus for the next four years (through to 2012/13), outlining how the projected growth in enrolment would be able to support a growth in expenses related to these and other new programs. It was clearly communicated to the Senate Budget Committee by Dean Fedderson, however, that these programs would only be continued if the enrolment targets are met. Because contract (or term) faculty constitute the majority of the teaching staff at the Orillia campus, it was argued that there is greater flexibility when contemplating the termination of programs. Should programs be cancelled, transition plans would be created so that students already enrolled would be able to complete their program at the Orillia campus. Specific to the proposed Anthropology and Geography programs, concern was raised at SBC concerning the “streaming” that exists within these programs at the Thunder Bay campus. The teaching resources will not be available at Orillia, for example, to offer all three streams of the Anthropology program that are currently offered at the Thunder Bay campus. The following motion was carried at the SBC meeting of May 8th.

“Moved that the Senate Budget Committee recommends that Senate approve the proposed Majors in Anthropology, Geography and English at the Orillia campus provided: 1) that the programs are generic within a given discipline (with no concentrations or streams specified); and 2) that Faculty hired to teach these programs will be contract or term such that if the projected enrolment targets are not met, then these programs will be cancelled. Should programs be cancelled, in-course students in the affected program(s) will be able to finish out the program at the Orillia campus.”

Other Items

4. University Operating Budget for 2009-10

The proposed Operating Budget for 2009-10 was presented to the SBC by the Vice President – Administration and Finance, Mr. Michael Pawlowski at a special SBC meeting of May 8th, 2009. Mr. Pawlowski will be giving a similar presentation to Senators at the May 15th meeting, though as SBC Chair I will include a summary of the discussions at our meeting.

The Committee was asked for our comments about the budget. For 2009/10, a balanced budget is proposed which has been achieved through two special items in addition to the 6% cuts imposed campus(es) wide earlier in the spring. First, a special (one-time) grant of approximately \$1.2 million was received from the Government at the end of the fiscal year. Second, the 4-day shut-down scheduled for Dec 21-24 will save the University in the neighbourhood of \$980,000. While all University employees may not agree with the process by which this latter decision was made, the argument was made by the VP Finance that this savings will protect in the neighbourhood of 20 to 25 jobs at Lakehead University, amongst those employees *not protected* by negotiated agreements.

The Committee posed questions of the VP Finance about what lies in years ahead (for 2010/11 and so forth), what will be the impact of the capital expenditure for the new Campus at Orillia

and how the plans outlined in the Strategic Plan (2010 to 2013) will address budgetary issues. The short answer to the first is that the Committee was told to expect deeper cuts for 2010/11, as the carry-forward funds used in the 2009/10 budgeting process will be non-existent and special transfer of \$1.2 million at the end of fiscal year 2008/09 was a one-time event. With regards to the proposed \$45 million building for the Orillia campus, the Committee was told that Request for Proposals are due shortly (in June) and that if the estimates for construction come in higher than the budgeted \$45 million, then the Administration will be re-considering its commitment to building of the project. The Committee was happy to hear that a “contingency plan”, should construction not go ahead, is in place. For the third point, the Strategic Plan addresses budgetary processes in a variety of places including, but not limited to, issues of minimum class sizes, rationalization of academic units (with regards to Sustainability) and course offerings through distance-learning formats. For the latter, while there are potential savings of such formats, the Administration fully recognizes that there could be significant costs to implementing such formats on the scale proposed in the Strategic Plan which would negate the potential savings.

The Senate Budget Committee recommends that Senate approve the proposed Operating Budget for 2009/10.

Dr Todd Randall, SBC Chair