

Invitation for comments

Size of the Brock University Board of Trustees

Background

The Brock University Board of Trustees is continually reviewing its governance practices, policies and structure to ensure that it can best fulfill its responsibilities under the *Brock University Act* to govern the University's property, revenues, expenditures, business and affairs.

As part of a recent review by the Board's Governance/Nominating Committee, it was determined that a reduction in the size of the Board would enable the Board to better focus its work and make it more efficient and effective.

The Governance/Nominating Committee is undertaking consultation with the Brock community in relation to changing the size of the Board and is inviting interested stakeholders to submit comments in writing to the Office of the University Secretariat by **December 1, 2014**. Comments should be emailed to Cathy Angelone at cangelone@brocku.ca.

Further background regarding the proposal is set out below.

What is the current size of the Board?

The *Brock University Act* (section 7) provides that the Board shall consist of:

- a. The Chancellor ex officio
- b. The President and Vice-Chancellor ex officio
- c. Such number of members, not exceeding thirty nor less than twenty as may be prescribed by by-law of the Board ... and of whom three shall be members of the faculty elected by Senate.

The Board of Trustees currently consists of 32 members, made up of:

- 21 community members elected by the Board
- 2 undergraduate students
- 1 graduate student
- 3 faculty members
- 3 staff members
- the Chancellor
- the President and Vice-Chancellor

What is the change being considered by the Board?

The Governance/Nominating Committee of the Board has considered a number of different potential reconfigurations and believes that a 25-member board may present the optimal size. This number would allow the Board to maintain a staff representative as well as both a graduate and undergraduate student representative and would not reduce the faculty representatives mandated by the *Brock University Act*. This reduction would be achieved by amending the current composition as follows:

- 21 community members - reduced to 17
- 3 staff members - reduced to 1
- 2 undergraduate students - reduced to 1
- 1 graduate student - no change
- 3 faculty members - no change
- the Chancellor - no change
- the President and Vice-Chancellor - no change

What is the rationale for the change?

The Board feels that it would operate more efficiently and effectively if it were smaller. Having a smaller board would also be in keeping with trends and best practice in the not-for-profit sector.

What would this mean for the constituencies whose numbers are being reduced?

In proposing the above reduction, the Governance/Nominating Committee was careful to ensure that no constituency lost their voice on the Board. Both staff members and undergraduate representatives would continue to be represented on the Board through their respective representatives and would continue to be included in Board committees and initiatives.

What is the timing of the proposed change?

The timing and process will depend on the outcome of this consultation, but the Board is interested in having the change in place for the 2015-2016 Board of Trustees.