



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION  
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Held on Thursday, September 18, 2003, immediately following the Closed Session,  
in Room GM 407-1, SGW Campus

Attendance

Present: Mr. Alain Benedetti, *Chair*, Dr. Steven Appelbaum, Dr. Rama Bhat, Me Gerald C. Burke, Mr. Alexander Carpini, Mr. Charles G. Cavell, *Vice-Chair*, Dr. Sally Cole, Mr. Howard Davidson, Me Rita de Santis, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Brian Edwards, Me Pierre Frégeau, *Observer*, Ms. Suzanne Gouin, Mr. George Hanna, Mr. Noah Joseph, Mrs. Judith Kavanagh, Mr. Peter Kruyt, *Vice-Chair*, Dr. Loren Lerner, Dr. Frederick Lowy, *Rector and Vice-Chancellor*, Mr. Eric Molson, *Chancellor*, Mr. Desmond O'Neill, Mr. John Parisella, Ms. Natalie Pomerleau, Mr. Richard Renaud, Mrs. Miriam Roland, Mrs. Suzanne Sévigny, Mr. Adam Slater, Mrs. Mackie Vadachino de Massy, Mr. Ivan Velan, Mrs. Lillian Vineberg, Mr. Jonathan Wener

Officers of the University: Prof. Marcel Danis, Mr. Michael Di Grappa, Mr. Larry English

Absent: Mr. Normand Beauchamp, Dr. Louise Brunette, Hon. Baljit Singh Chadha, Dr. June Chaikelson, Mr. Kamal Fox, Ms. Patricia Lavoie, Ms. Christine Lengvari, Mr. Alex G. Potter, Dr. Hani Shennib, Mr. Jacques St-Laurent

Guests: Me Suzanne Birks (Legal Counsel), Mr. Garry Milton (Executive Director, Rector's Cabinet)

1. Call to Order

The Open Session was called to order at 8:08 a.m.

1.1 Chair's remarks

Mr. Benedetti welcomed back returning Governors as well as new members Natalie Pomerleau, Noah Joseph and Adam Slater, the CSU representatives, Suzanne Sévigny, representing the external community, and Sally Cole and Rama Bhat, faculty members. He indicated that during Closed Session, Patricia Lavoie was elected to replace Peter McAuslan, who had resigned as the Concordia University Alumni Association representative.

Referring to the guidelines which had been sent in August to all Board members by the Secretary of the Board, the Chair emphasized that the common theme of meetings will be mutual respect and that he will act accordingly. He also indicated that he welcomes private comments from any Governor. Mr. Benedetti concluded his remarks by

encouraging all Governors to participate and/or sponsor someone for tomorrow's annual Shuffle, which will depart from the McConnell Building at 1 p.m.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Wener, Sévigny), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2003-71 *THAT the Agenda be approved as submitted.*

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous meeting (June 18, 2003)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Vineberg, Vadacchino de Massy), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2003-72 *THAT the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous regular meeting of the Board, held June 18, 2003, be approved.*

2. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

3. Philanthropy, Concordia and the Concordia Foundation

Mr. Richard Renaud was pleased to address the Board regarding the Oxford Round Table of University Administrators he had attended last summer with his wife, Carolyn, together with representatives from 21 other countries. Among the topics discussed were international trends in government financing of post secondary education, intercultural learning in higher education as well as funding for higher education.

Mr. Renaud's presentation to his fellow administrators focused on development initiatives as sources of funding. More specifically, he spoke of the initiatives taken in advancement over the last 10 years as well as fiscal responsibility and academic planning. He also gave an outline on the University's bond issue.

Mr. Renaud conveyed that this conference had been a very positive experience since it raised awareness of Concordia and Canada and was most beneficial since it gave him food for thought regarding trends, financing and e learning situations in post secondary education. In closing, he reiterated that this conference was an excellent way to increase knowledge base and recommended a yearly attendance.

4. Membership of Standing Committees of the Board

Mr. Benedetti specified that the membership of the standing committees had been discussed with the Vice-Chairs. He invited Governors to speak to him privately after the meeting if they had any conflict or comment with respect to their assignments. Mr. O'Neill enquired why the staff representative had been removed from the Executive Committee, to which Mr. Benedetti responded that he wanted to have a smaller committee than in the past. However, he told Mr. O'Neill that he would take this request under advisement.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Hanna), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2003-73      *THAT the membership of the Standing Committees of the Board of Governors, as set out in Document BG-2003-7-D1, be approved.*

5.      Approval of the revised summary of the responsibilities and mandates of the Standing Committees of the Board of Governors

Mr. Slater was worried about the change in the mandate in the Appeals Committee, stating that the decision to hear an appeal should rest with the Chair of the Appeals Committee who is usually a lawyer, rather than the Chair of the Board. Prof. Danis responded that the mandate as stated had been adopted by the Board of Governors in 1996.

A motion was moved by Mr. Slater and seconded by Ms. Pomerleau, to revise the mandate of the Appeals Committee so that it reads: *In accordance with Article 32 of the University By-Laws, the Appeals Committee decides on requests for authorization to appeal on any matter brought to the attention of the Chair of the Board of Governors and hears appeals if such authorization is granted.*

However, Me de Santis, the Chair of the Appeals Committee, consulted the wording in the By-Laws and opined that Article 32 does not give the authority to the Appeals Committee to decide on leaves to appeal. This power is vested in the Board of Governors. Prof. Danis indicated that he would be submitting a report in which this matter would be addressed. Therefore, Mr. Slater and Ms. Pomerleau agreed to withdraw the above motion.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Renaud), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2003-74      *THAT the document entitled Summary of the responsibilities and mandates of the Standing Committees of the Board of Governors, as set out in Document BG-2003-7-D2, be approved.*

6.      Amendment to the Policy on the Establishment of Tribunal Hearing Pools

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Kavanagh), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2003-75      *THAT, upon the recommendation of Senate, the revision to article 9 of the Policy on the Establishment of Tribunal Hearing Pools (BD-6), as set out in Document BG-2003-7-D3, be approved.*

7.      Closing of Lonergan University College

Dr. Lowy reiterated the reasons for closing Lonergan College, as stipulated in Document BG-2003-7-D4.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Edwards), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2003-76      *THAT, pursuant to the recommendation of the Arts and Science Faculty Council and Senate, the Board of Governors approve the closing of Lonergan University College, as set out in Document BG-2003-7-D4.*

8. Progress report of the Advisory Search Committee for the Provost

Dr. Lowy, the Chair of the Search Committee, apprised the Board that the Committee had met and approved its own process. A draft Ideal Candidate Profile has been circulated to the Faculty Councils, Senators, and members of the Board's Executive Committee. Once all comments will have been received, a final draft will be submitted for approval by the Board. In the meantime, short advertisements have been published in newspapers and in various internal and external university publications, and the Committee is waiting for applications.

9. Reports on Concordia's compliance with certain legal obligations

9.1 Report on compliance with fiscal requirements

Chief Financial Officer Larry English reported he was satisfied with the procedures followed for computing and remitting taxes withheld from employees and employers' contributions from June 1, 2003 to August 31, 2003 as well as for GST and QST claims from May 1, 2003 to July 31, 2003 and that the University had fully complied with its statutory fiscal obligations. A copy of his written report had been deposited with the Secretary of the Board of Governors.

9.2 Report on compliance with environmental legislation and health and safety regulations

Vice-Rector, Services Michael Di Grappa reported that the *Quarterly environmental health and safety report on due diligence*, dated September 12, 2003, had been deposited with the Secretary of the Board of Governors. He mentioned that the efforts of a number of departments have been concentrated on the completion of the Science Complex. The move was managed without any serious incident. A senior safety advisor has been appointed. Moreover, there have been no CSST interventions or serious injuries to Concordia personnel since the last report.

10. Report of the Rector

Dr. Lowy reminded Governors that a copy of his report had been included in the Board documentation, under number BG-2003-7-D5.

Dr. Lowy was delighted to report that the official opening of the Science Complex will be held on September 22, which will be attended by Premier Jean Charest and other dignitaries. He specified that this achievement was made possible due to the foresight, hard work and devotion of several Board members and University personnel, who implemented the recommendations made by the Task Force on the Revitalization of the Loyola Campus, headed by Mrs. Vineberg and Sister McIlwaine. Dr. Lowy thanked Mr. Jonathan Wener, the Chair of the Real Estate Planning Committee, for his invaluable assistance, as well as Vice-Rector Di Grappa, Peter Bolla and the entire team of architects.

The Rector was pleased to report on the opening of the new athletic field as well as the successful student orientation. He also gave an overview of the state of the University with respect to the academic programs, faculty hiring and retention, research, student enrolment and retention, implementation of the space plan, and the budget. Dr. Lowy concluded his report by stating his enthusiasm and optimism for the new academic year.

Dr. Lowy apprised the Board that further to an interest which was expressed during yesterday's Executive Committee meeting by some Governors representing the external community to deepen their understanding of the University's programs, it was agreed that each Faculty be asked to host an information session. Accordingly, a first event will be held October 14, at 6:30 p.m., hosted by the John Molson School of Business. Invitations detailing the particulars of this event will be sent by the Secretary of the Board.

11. Reports of the Vice-Rectors

11.1 Provost

Dr. Lightstone had conveyed his regrets.

11.2 Vice-Rector, Services

Mr. Di Grappa conveyed his appreciation to Dr. Lowy, Mrs. Lillian Vineberg, Mr. Jonathan Wener, Dean Martin Singer, Mr. Garry Milton, Dr. Robert Roy, Mr. Peter Bolla, Ms. Martine Lehoux and Mr. Rick Young and the staff in Facilities Management in connection with the completion of the Science Complex.

The Vice-Rector indicated that while there had been a delay due to climate problems experienced over the winter, the construction of the Engineering and Computer Science and Visual Arts building is moving along and is scheduled to open in January 2005. With respect to the John Molson School of Business building, excavation is planned for next year. He thanked Vice-Rector Marcel Danis and the Advancement team who are working on the campaign to raise money for new Recreation and Athletics facilities.

11.3 Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Secretary-General

Vice-Rector Danis encouraged Governors to attend the 20 events which will be held during Homecoming, from September 30 to October 5, and more particularly, the Rector's Reunion Dinner Dance on October 4. The dance will be opened by Governors Lillian Vineberg (BFA 83) and Peter Kruyt (BA 79).

11.4 Chief Financial Officer

Mr. English stated that the University is in great financial health. He is still awaiting news from the Quebec Government regarding the budget.

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

13. Any other business

Mrs. Vadacchino de Massy congratulated the Communications Department for doing an excellent job as well as to CSU President Natalie Pomerleau for the positive initiatives undertaken by the CSU.

Me Burke asked that the allegation made by Mr. Slater about inequalities regarding eligibility requirements be looked into, and addressed, if necessary. Moreover, he wondered if the input of the Sir George Williams Alumni Association will be sought with respect to the design competition of Quartier Concordia and expressed concerns

that the heritage of Sir George Williams, one of the founding members of Concordia, will be forgotten. The Rector reassured Me Burke that all members of the University will have an opportunity to participate in the process and added that there is no intent to drop either the name of Sir George Williams or Loyola.

Referring to a recent article, Mr. Parisella commented that the University has emerged stronger from last year's challenges, which is a testimony to everyone sitting in the room as well as to the leadership of Mrs. Vineberg and Dr. Lowy.

Further to a question from Mr. Cavell, Dr. Lowy said that it could be arranged to have a copy of the daily press review forwarded to those Governors who request it.

Mr. Joseph told the Board that it was wonderful to have the Rector, Vice-Rector and Dean of Students handing out refreshments at Orientation. Vice-Rector Di Grappa answered Mr. Joseph's queries regarding the shuttle bus and the football stands.

In response to a query by Mr. Slater regarding the status of the enquiry into discrimination on campus, Dr. Lowy replied this issue will be addressed by the Diversity Initiative.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on October 16, 2003, at 8 a.m., on the SGW Campus.

15. Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of the Board of Governors