



BG-2004-2

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

Held on Thursday, March 18, 2004, immediately following the Closed Session,
in Room GM 407-1, on the SGW Campus

Attendance

Present: Mr. Alain Benedetti, *Chair*, Dr. Steven Appelbaum, Dr. Rama Bhat, Me Gerald C. Burke, Hon. Baljit Singh Chadha, P.C., Dr. June Chaikelson, Dr. Sally Cole, Mr. Howard Davidson, Me Rita de Santis, *Vice-Chair*, Me Pierre Frégeau, *Observer*, Ms. Suzanne Gouin, Mr. George Hanna, Mr. Noah Joseph, Mrs. Judith Kavanagh, Ms. Patricia Lavoie, Dr. Frederick Lowy, *Rector and Vice-Chancellor*, Mr. Eric Molson, *Chancellor*, Mr. Desmond O'Neill, Mr. John Parisella, Ms. Natalie Pomerleau, Mr. Alex G. Potter, Mr. Richard Renaud, Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally, Mrs. Miriam Roland, Mr. Adam Slater, Mrs. Lillian Vineberg, Mr. Jonathan Wener

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

Absent: Mr. Normand Beauchamp, Mr. Alexander Carpini, Mr. Charles G. Cavell, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Brian Edwards, Mr. Kamal Fox, Mr. Peter Kruyt, *Vice-Chair*, Ms. Christine Lengvari, Mrs. Suzanne Sévigny, Dr. Hani Shennib, Mr. Jacques St-Laurent, Mrs. Mackie Vadacchino de Massy, Mr. Ivan Velan

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 8:10 a.m.

1.1 Chair's remarks

Mr. Benedetti welcomed new Fine Arts representative, Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally, who was attending her first meeting.

The Chair urged Governors to read the article in today's *Globe and Mail*, by Don Drummond, TD Bank's chief economist entitled "*Wise up on education spending*". He was also proud to point out that according to the *Financial Post* ranking of all Canadian business schools, Concordia was ranked 5th out of 30.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

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

R-2004-2-3 *THAT the Agenda be approved as submitted.*

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous meeting (February 19, 2004)

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

R-2004-2-4 *THAT the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous regular meeting of the Board, held on February 19, 2004, be approved as submitted.*

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

There was no business to report under this item.

3. Election of the members of the Evaluation Committee for the Vice-Rector, Services

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

R-2004-2-5 *WHEREAS at its meeting of February 19, 2004, the Board of Governors established an Evaluation Committee for the position of Vice-Rector, Services, in accordance with the composition set out in the Evaluation Procedure for Senior Administrators in the Penultimate Year of their First Mandate;*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following persons be elected as members of the Evaluation Committee for the Vice-Rector, Services:

- *Dr. Frederick Lowy, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, as Chair;*
- *Mr. Jonathan Wener, a member of the Board representing the community-at-large, recommended by the Executive Committee of the Board;*
- *Dean Christopher Jackson, a representative of the senior administration, recommended by the Executive Committee of the Board*

4. Election of additional members to the Advisory Search Committee for the Vice-Rector, Advancement and Alumni Affairs

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Renaud), it was RESOLVED with one abstention (Slater):

R-2004-2-6 *THAT the following persons be elected as members of the Advisory Search Committee for Vice-Rector, Advancement and Alumni Affairs:*

- *Mr. Graham Maisonneuve, a staff representative from one of the units reporting to the position;*
- *Mr. Adam Slater, representing the undergraduate students;*
- *Profs. Lucie Lequin and Christopher A. Ross, representing the full-time faculty members.*

5. Approval of the profile for the position of Vice-Rector, Advancement and Alumni Affairs (Document BG-2004-2-D1)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Renaud), it was RESOLVED with two abstentions:

R-2004-2-7 *THAT the Board of Governors approve the profile for the position of Vice-Rector, Advancement and Alumni Affairs, as detailed in Document BG-2004-2-D1.*

6. Amendment to the University By-Laws (Document BG-2004-2-D2)

Dr. Lowy explained that the request by non-active members of the pension plan for representation on the Board was reasonable but should be restricted to those items that are directly relevant to them. The addition of a non-voting observer from that constituency requires a modification to the By-Laws.

On the topic of composition of the Board, and recognizing that it is not a By-Law requirement, Mrs. Vineberg asked that her sentiment be noted regarding the importance of having an undergraduate student representative from each the four Faculties.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, O'Neill), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2004-2-8 *WHEREAS in conformity with article 58 of the University By-Laws, the members of the Board of Governors were given notice on February 25, 2004 of proposed amendments to articles 4 and 15 of the By-Laws of Concordia University;*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors approve the amendments to articles 4 and 15 of the By-Laws of Concordia University, as set out in Document BG-2004-2-D2.

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

7.1 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 December 1, 2003 to February 29, 2004 as well as for GST and QST claims from November 1, 2003 to January 31, 2004 and that the University had fully complied with its statutory fiscal obligations.

A copy of his written report has been deposited with the Secretary of the Board of Governors.

7.2 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* for March 2004 has been deposited with the Secretary of the Board of Governors.

Mr. Di Grappa reported that a CSST intervention regarding air quality in the Guy-Metro building in response to complaints has been closed further to the University's action plan. The conclusion of the CSST inspector is that the University is managing the situation adequately. Further to complaints from Guy-Metro Building occupants about exhaust fumes emanating from construction site, Mr. Di Grappa stated that the situation has been corrected. Lastly, he indicated that supervision of contractor activities for the

Hall Building renovations has proven difficult but that a letter of warning has been issued to the contractor and additional Concordia staff has been assigned to oversee the work.

Mr. Slater said that he had met Mr. Di Grappa earlier in the week to discuss some concerns and asked Mr. Di Grappa to speak to the Director of Security so that the latter attend meetings of CCSL (Concordia Council on Student Life). Mr. Di Grappa replied that he would convey the request to Mr. Brisebois.

8. Report of the Rector

Accompanied by Dr. Lightstone, Prof. Danis, Mr. Di Grappa, Mr. English, Mr. Milton and Ms. Abitbol, Dr. Lowy appeared before the Commission parlementaire on March 17. Responding to a request from the CSU, student representatives Ms. Pomerleau and Mr. Wordsworth were also present and made a brief statement before the Commission. The Rector explained the process followed at the parliamentary hearing and mentioned that the full written brief, which had been submitted to the Commission on February 6, was available on the University website.

Dr. Lowy summarized the content of his presentation, which addressed Concordia's under-funding in relation to its needs as well as to universities in other provinces. A CREPUQ study has identified a gap of \$375 million per year between the Quebec network and universities in the rest of Canada as well as a cumulative shortfall of \$2.9 billion incurred by the Quebec network since the 1994 tuition freeze and the government cuts to universities which began the same year.

Therefore, while recognizing the under-funding as well as the necessity of education in a knowledge-based society, the key question is what is to be done? More importantly, who will carry the burden, in light of the election promises made by the Charest government not to raise tuition fees during its first mandate and the unlikelihood that the government will inject more money into the education system due to the state of its finances?

Dr. Lowy explained how the gap adversely affects Concordia's budget with respect to new faculty hires, support staff, indexation of salaries, construction projects and maintenance of infrastructures. The Rector pointed out that Concordia's growth is not attributable to lower admission standards. On the contrary, the average GPA of new students has risen. He said that the preferred way of financing the shortfall would be increased funding by the Quebec government through public funds, or by funds obtained via transfer payments to be negotiated with the federal government, similar to the current arrangement which prevails for the health care system.

However, if there is an impossibility or an unwillingness to increase subsidies, then other alternatives must be considered under certain specified conditions. The Rector informed Governors that Concordia supports the CREPUQ proposal that the Quebec government study the British and Australian models whereby tuition increases would be paid by the government and reimbursed by students once they are earning taxable income. Dr. Lowy indicated that this option is worth exploring and concluded by stating that Concordia was well received by both sides of the house.

Further to this report, a discussion ensued during which Dr. Lowy and Dr. Lightstone responded to comments and questions from Governors.

9. Reports of the Vice-Rectors

9.1 Provost

While stating his disappointment by the fact that none of Concordia submissions over the past eight months for CFI (Canadian Foundation for Innovation) awards had been accepted despite Concordia's past successes, Dr. Lightstone was nonetheless pleased to reiterate that all recent applications for funding under the CRCs (Canada Research Chairs) had been granted. The Provost opined that the academic plan is transforming the research culture of the University, as witnessed by the steady increase of professors applying for external research grants.

9.2 Vice-Rector, Services

Vice-Rector Di Grappa apprised the Board that on the evening of Friday March 5, a suspicious package was discovered in front of the Hall Building. Police officers were immediately called. As a precaution, the building was evacuated later and classes were cancelled. Mr. Di Grappa thanked Garry Milton, Dennis Murphy, Evelyne Abitbol as well as the staff of the Security Department and Facilities Operations for their assistance and cooperation in handling the situation.

The package turned out to be harmless and was probably someone's sick idea of a protest that was not related to Concordia. Mr. Di Grappa responded to questions by Governors in connection with the intervention of the police and the technical squads.

9.3 Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Secretary-General

Vice-Rector Danis reported that intensive labor negotiations have begun with staff and that he will report back to the Board on the progress in due course.

9.4 Chief Financial Officer

Mr. English apprised Governors that the University finances are doing well, in spite of not having a budget for this year. The Budget Committee will probably be meeting next month. Mr. English added that the budget is in a balanced position with respect to teaching and support but noted a \$4 million deficit with respect to buildings and grounds, since Concordia did not receive any funds from the Government for the new Science Complex. Although the Government recognizes that it owes this money to Concordia, it has not yet paid it.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

11. Any other business

At the request of Mr. Joseph, Governors stood in a moment of silence in memory of the many victims of recent terrorist attacks in Europe and the Middle-East.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2004, at 8:00 a.m., on the SGW Campus.

13. Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors