

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

Held on Thursday, April 28, 2005, immediately following the Closed Session
in Room AD 307, Loyola Campus

Present

Governors: Mr. Alain Benedetti, *Chair*, Dr. Rama Bhat, Mr. Patrice Blais, Me Gerald C. Burke, Mr. Charles G. Cavell, *Vice-Chair*, Hon. Baljit Singh Chadha; Mr. Howard Davidson, Me Rita de Santis, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Brent Farrington, Mrs. Judith Kavanagh, Dr. William Knitter, Mr. Peter Kruyt, *Vice-Chair*, Dr. Frederick Lowy, *President and Vice-Chancellor*, Mr. Desmond O'Neill, Mr. John Parisella, Ms. Natalie Pomerleau, Mr. Richard Renaud, Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally, Mrs. Suzanne Sévigny, Dr. Hani Shennib, Dr. Patricia Thornton, Mrs. Lillian Vineberg, Mr. Jonathan Wener, Mr. Tyler Wordsworth

Non-voting Observers: Ms. Jean Freed, Mr. John Hall

Officers of the University: Ms. Kathy Assayag, Me Marcel Danis, Mr. Michael Di Grappa, Mr. Larry English, Dr. Martin Singer, Dr. Truong Vo-Van

Guests: Mr. Garry Milton (Executive Director, President's Cabinet)

Absent

Governors: Mr. Alexander Carpini, Dr. Sally Cole, Mr. Brian Edwards, Ms. Suzanne Gouin, Mr. George Hanna, Mr. Houman Kousha, Dr. Lawrence Kryzanowski, Ms. Patricia Lavoie, Ms. Christine Lengvari, Mr. Tony Meti, Mr. Eric Molson, *Chancellor*, Mr. Alex G. Potter, Ms. Patricia Saputo, Mr. Jacques St-Laurent, Mrs. Mackie Vadamchino de Massy, Mr. Ivan Velan

1. Call to Order

Mr. Benedetti called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

1.1 Chair's remarks

Mr. Benedetti announced that during Closed Session, the Board of Governors approved the appointment of Dr. David Graham as Dean of Arts and Science, for a term of five years, beginning on August 1, 2005 and ending on June 30, 2010 as well as the appointment of Prof. Catherine Wild as Dean of Fine Arts, for a term of five years, beginning on September 1, 2005 and ending on June 30, 2010.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Davidson, Knitter), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2005-3-6 *THAT the Agenda be approved.*

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous meeting (March 17, 2005)

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

R-2005-3-7 *THAT the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous regular meeting of the Board of Governors, held on March 17, 2005, subject to a correction on page 2.*

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

3. Approval of a servitude and exchange act (Document BG-2005-3-D4)

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

R-2005-3-8 *WHEREAS the City of Montreal has agreed to part with the underground ("tréfonds") of lot 1 066 450 of the Official Cadastre of Quebec in favor of Concordia University;*

THAT the exchange act ("Promesse d'échange") with the City of Montreal is conditional upon the University being the owner of lot 1 066 156 of the Official Cadastre of Quebec at the time of the signature of the exchange act;

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Concordia University has received a request from the City of Montreal for a servitude to allow pedestrians and vehicles from the general public to use part of lot 1 066 114 of the Official Cadastre of Quebec (representing 2,62 metres in width by 5 metres in above ground height) located on the west side of Guy street and the north side of Ste-Catherine street;

THAT Concordia University will construct a tunnel that will link lots 1 066 156 and 1 066 114 of the Official Cadastre of Quebec and that it will be responsible for any repairs, asphaltting and damages resulting from the construction of the tunnel as well as the maintenance of lot 1 066 114;

THAT the Vice-President, Services is hereby authorized to sign and to execute for an on behalf of the University any documentation in relation to said exchange act and servitude.

4. Renaming of the General Engineering and Computer Science Studies Unit to the General Studies Unit (Document BG-2005-3-D5)

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

R-2005-3-9 *That, upon recommendation of the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science and Senate, the Board of Governors approve the renaming of the General*

Engineering and Computer Science Studies Unit (GENCS) to the General Studies Unit (GSU), as set out in Document BG-2005-3-D5.

5. Revisions to the membership of the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document BG-2005-3-D6)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Bhat, Chadha), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2005-3-10 *That, upon recommendation of the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science and Senate, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the membership of the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, as set out in Document BG-2005-3-D6.*

6. Update of the composition and goals of the Engineering and Computer Science Association (ECA) Equipment Fund Committee (Document BG-2005-3-D7)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Bhat, Pomerleau), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2005-3-11 *That, upon recommendation of the ECA Council, the revised composition and goals of the Engineering and Computer Science Association (ECA) Equipment Fund Committee be approved as specified in Document BG-2005-3-D7.*

7. Amendment to the University By-Laws (Document BG-2005-3-D8)

Dr. Lowy indicated that the only substantive change being proposed was with respect to article 41 dealing with the composition of Senate. The other changes are of a housekeeping nature, pursuant to new titles and appointments. He added that following a request from the graduate students and the part-time faculty members for increased representation, discussions had been on-going at Senate during the past three years. At the March meeting, the proposed formula was accepted and adopted by Senate.

Mr. Farrington agreed that the new composition addresses several concerns but does not provide a proportional distribution of student seats in light of the undergraduate and graduate enrolments. In his view, undergraduate representation is reduced. To achieve a balance, he proposed that the undergraduate seats be increased from 11 to 12, and the graduate seats reduced from 4 to 3. Dr. Lowy apprised the Board that Mr. Farrington's concern was taken into consideration at the Senate meeting, at which time the latter moved an identical motion, which was defeated by a majority. When asked about the rationale, Dr. Lowy replied that this proposal seems to be the most equitable, given the size of Senate.

Dr. Singer added that Senate representation is a balance between proportionality and representation. If seats were to be attributed strictly on the proportionality of the constituencies, then the number of seats per Faculty would also have to change. The main concern of Senate is to even out the various interests while maintaining a balance between faculty and student representation. Dr. Singer stated the pressing need to approve the increased representation of graduate students and part-time faculty members now, while indicating that this did not close the door to further representation of other constituencies in the future.

A discussion ensued on this issue, during which some Governors stated that, while they normally do not overturn decisions of Senate, they were sympathetic to the concern expressed by Mr. Farrington. As a solution, it was suggested that an extra voting seat could be granted to the undergraduate students and that the graduate students could have one representative from each of the four Faculties but with three rotating votes.

With respect to article 15 f) regarding the attribution of undergraduate seats on the Board, Dr. Bhat opined that it would be more equitable if the students were selected by their faculty associations. Mrs. Vineberg agreed that each Faculty should have a representative, as it was done in the past. She deplored the fact that under the present system all four students could come from the same Faculty. Mr. Blais responded that the Accreditation Act grants the power to the CSU to name the student representatives on various University-wide bodies. This was confirmed by Me Danis.

Regarding article 38, Mr. Hall felt that the quorum for committee meetings was low and suggested that it be a majority of the members, as for the Board meetings. Mr. Benedetti said that this could be discussed during the planning process.

In light of the above discussion, it was felt that the Senate composition should be sent back to Senate for further review and discussion. This course of action was approved by a majority of Governors, with two opposed. Accordingly, the approval of the By-Laws is deferred until such time that the Senate composition will be resubmitted for Board approval.

8. Revisions to the mandate of Standing Committees of the Board (Document BG-2005-3-D9)

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

R-2005-3-12 That the revisions to the mandate of the Collective Bargaining Committee, Communications Committee, Employee Benefits Committee, Personnel Committee and University Advancement Committee be approved, as set out in Document BG-2005-3-D9.

9. Progress report from the Advisory Search Committee for a President and Vice-Chancellor

The Chair of the Advisory Search Committee, Mr. Benedetti, reminded Governors that the open meeting to introduce a candidate for the position of President and Vice-Chancellor will be held on Wednesday, May 4, at 2 p.m., in Room H 110. The Advisory Search Committee will meet on May 12 to review and consider any comments received, draft its report and make a recommendation, if appropriate, to the May 19 Board meeting.

10. Report of Standing Committees

10.1 Real Estate Planning Committee (March 17, 2005)

Committee Chair Jonathan Wener reported that the search for student housing remains a top priority. He noted that current conditions in the real estate market make it difficult to find a suitable property to acquire for the University's housing needs at a reasonable price. He also spoke of on-going discussions with the provincial government to create a

property tax exemption for third-parties that build residential properties for the University. Such an exemption would encourage construction of housing and provide access to capital that would not otherwise be available for universities. Mr. Wener informed the Board of three student residence opportunities that the University is pursuing.

10.2 Budget Committee (April 19, 2005) (Document BG-2005-3-D10)

Reporting on behalf of the Committee Chair George Hanna, Mr. English apprised the Board of the absence of any new development from the government. For the year ending May 31, 2005, in accordance with the financial projections as of April, the final figure could range between \$0 and a \$3.5 million deficit, but in all likelihood the University will achieve a balanced budget. Mr. English responded to questions from Governors and gave explanations regarding certain budget items.

11. Report of the President

Dr. Lowy was proud to announce that Dr. Danielle Morin, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs, received the 2005 YWCA Women of Distinction award in the Education Category. Dr. Lowy invited Me de Santis, who attended the event, to comment. The latter reported that the award was presented at a gala dinner on April 26, which was attended by close to 1,000 people. She added that during her acceptance speech, Dr. Morin especially thanked Concordia which had allowed her the opportunity to grow and realize her achievements. Me de Santis said that this message was heard across the room and opined that this is the best kind of publicity for Concordia.

Dr. Lowy continued his report by briefing the Board on his recent trip to China. He was accompanied by Dr. Singer and Ms. Assayag, as well as Dean Jackson and Dean Esmail for selected cities. The trip included a visit to 15 Chinese institutions, which resulted in the conclusion of 14 joint research projects. The President wound up his report by expressing his appreciation to Mr. Benedetti for his earlier remarks in Closed Session. He noted that his accomplishments were attributable to effective team work. During his mandate, he has been blessed with colleagues who worked in a synergic fashion as well as a supportive Board. He thanked Mr. Benedetti and former Chair Lillian Vineberg for their first rate assistance.

12. Reports of the Vice-President

12.1 Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs

With respect to the academic planning process, Dr. Singer reminded Governors that in August 2004, the framework of the plan was agreed upon, which resulted in a directional document. The plan was sent to the Faculty Councils and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies for comments and approval, and it will be submitted for final approval at the May 6 Senate meeting.

Dr. Singer also updated the Board on the status of the hiring of full-time faculty members as well as student enrolments for the Summer and Fall terms.

12.2 Vice-President, Services

Mr. Di Grappa had nothing to report.

12.3 Vice-President, External Relations and Secretary-General

Me Danis said that lobbying efforts may have paid off, in that he had heard from the government that some funding may be received for the JMSB building before the end of Dr. Lowy's term.

12.4 Vice-President, Finance

Mr. English has nothing to report.

12.5 Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Affairs

Ms. Assayag was pleased to report that her recent trip to China and Western Canada was quite successful. Alumni events were held in Hong Kong, Beijing, Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto, which were all very well attended. She was able to arrange some private meetings with alumni and prospective donors. Throughout her visit, several alumni expressed their commitment and pride towards Concordia. Funds were raised in Hong Kong to support the work of the Concordia Hong Kong Foundation. Solicitations across Canada continued to focus funds towards the Lowy Fellowship Campaign.

Ms. Assayag spoke of the recent honorary convocation ceremony held in the Loyola Chapel, at which time 400 Loyola graduates received their Concordia commemorative degree. Since then, a thousand more have asked to receive their Concordia degree through the mail. She thanked Mr. Wener for coming up with this great idea and added that a similar event will be held on June 8 at Place des Arts for SGW graduates. She said that many Loyola and SGW alumni are thrilled to receive their Concordia commemorative degree.

Ms. Assayag apprised the Board of upcoming alumni activities in Toronto on May 3, the opera event "Hitting the High Notes" on May 10 which has already raised close to \$800,000, and the campaign to create the *Dr. Frederick H. Lowy Scholars*, which is close to reaching its objective of \$3,000,000. She concluded her report by stating that the proposal for the restructuring of the Advancement and Alumni units will be presented to the President's Cabinet on May 25. Following that, the Advancement Committee will review the proposed structure which will, thereafter, be brought to the Board.

13. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

14. Any other business

Messrs. Renaud, Cavell, and Kruyt as well as Me de Santis, all paid tribute to Mr. Benedetti for his support and leadership over the past two years as Chair as well as for his overall contribution on the Board for the past several years, both as a representative of the community-at-large and initially as a representative of the Loyola Alumni Association.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2005, at 8 a.m., in Room GM 407-1, on the SGW Campus.

19. Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors