

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

Held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008,
immediately following the meeting of the Closed Session
in Room GM 407-1, SGW Campus

Present

Governors: Mr. Peter Kruyt, *Chair*, Dr. Shimon Amir, Mr. John Ayles, Dr. Rama Bhat, Me Gerald C. Burke, Mr. Charles G. Cavell, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. James Cherry, Mr. Howard Davidson, Me Rita de Santis, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Michael Di Grappa, *President*, Mr. Brian Edwards, *Vice-Chair*, Ms. Hélène Fortin, Ms. Anika Henry, Mr. Ed Janzen, Dr. William Knitter, Dr. Lawrence Kryzanowski, Me John Lemieux, Mr. Tony Meti, Ms. Angelica Novoa, Mr. Desmond O'Neill, Mr. Steven Rosenshein, Mr. Ivan Velan, Mrs. Lillian Vineberg, Mr. Jonathan Wener, *Vice-Chair*

Non-voting Observers: Mr. John Hall

Officers of the University: Ms. Kathy Assayag, Mr. Roger Côté, Dr. Louise Dandurand, Me Bram Freedman, Mr. Larry English, Dr. David Graham, Mr. John Parisella

Guests: Me Pierre Fréreau, Me Jonathan Levinson

Absent

Governors: Mr. Mousa Bani Baker, Sister Françoise Boisvert, Hon. Baljit Singh Chadha, Mr. Danny Di Perna, Ms. Suzanne Gouin, Dr. Arvind K. Joshi, Mrs. Judith Kavanagh, Mr. David P. O'Brien, *Chancellor*, Dr. Lucie Lequin, Dr. Catherine MacKenzie, Mr. Andrew Molson, Mr. Richard Renaud, Ms. Patricia Saputo, Me Jacques Tousignant

Non-voting Observers: Ms. Jean Freed

1. Call to Order

The Open Session was called to order at 9:11 a.m.

1.1 Chair's remarks

Given that Dean Nabil Esmail's term is ending on May 31 and Dean-elect Robin Drew's term is beginning on August 1, Mr. Kruyt announced that, during the Closed Session, Dr. Rama Bhat was appointed as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, from June 1 to July 31, 2008.

He introduced Ms. Keyana Kashfi, CSU President-elect, as well as Mr. Noah Stewart-Ornstein, both of whom will be sitting on the Board as undergraduate student representatives for the 2008/2009 academic year.

The Chair continued his remarks by briefing Governors on the meeting of Board Chairs and heads of Quebec universities convened by the Minister of Education on April 25. He opined that it was a useful session which allowed comments and follow up on the governance discussion. The Minister opened the meeting by stating the four principles of particular interest to her but welcomed remarks on other points.

The Board Chairs took the opportunity to make forceful comments to the Minister about the under-funding of universities, to which she responded that the government has done all it can do further to the last reinvestment announced recently. Mr. Kruyt added that the Minister is preoccupied with the upcoming Auditor General's report regarding UQAM. The governance of provincial crown corporations has been restructured and the Minister is looking to review universities to ensure proper governance. However, legislation has not yet been drafted and she is willing to engage in bilateral discussions. Other meetings will be held. The Minister stated that her next challenge is to address the collective \$400 million accumulated deficit of Quebec universities.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

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

R-2008-5-6 *THAT the Agenda be approved.*

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 17, 2008

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

R-2008-5-7 *THAT the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of the Board of Governors, held on April 17, 2008, be approved.*

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

3. Budget Committee update

Mr. English apprised the Board that the Budget Committee will be meeting on May 22 and June 11. For the current year end, there is a projected deficit of over \$12 million. In reference to Mr. Kruyt's remarks about the Quebec network's \$400 million accumulated deficit, Mr. English noted that Concordia was only one of two universities having an accumulated surplus coming into the 2007/2008 fiscal year. He added that measures to minimize the impact of the current year results are being taken, including the curtailing of expenses to avoid creating a structural deficit. Concordia has a structural problem as the government provides funding for cost living increases at a rate of 1.6% -1.8% while

our annual salary increases are in the 4% range. This creates an annual, compounding shortfall of over \$6 million per year.

4. Presentation on Concordia's Facilities Program

Mr. Wener, Chair of the Real Estate Planning Committee, began his presentation by confirming that each project is closely monitored and outlined the internal leadership of Michael Di Grappa, Roger Côté, Peter Bolla, Martine Lehoux and Katie Sheahan. He noted that during recent years Concordia had undertaken construction projects totaling \$423 million, including the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex, the Communication Studies and Journalism Building, the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Complex, the John Molson School of Business Building and extensive renovations to the Hall Building.

With respect to the John Molson School of Business building, the Board had approved a \$118.5 million budget for a September 2009 opening. Mr. Wener reviewed the scope of the project and was pleased to report that construction was on time and on budget. The structure and tunnel are complete, internal work is progressing according to schedule and major contracts will be awarded for IITS, security, furniture, moving, etc. The building is scheduled to open in August 2009.

As for the Grey Nuns' property, Mr. Wener updated Governors on the terms of the acquisition as well as the four phases of the transfer and payment schedule. As for the development of the site, \$3.2 million was invested last summer for a 227-bed student residence. Currently, 12 additional residence beds are being installed as well a daycare that can accommodate 80 children. There are plans to add up to 328 residence beds in Phases 2, 3 and 4. Studies are ongoing to relocate the Performing Arts and Studio Arts, currently housed in the VA building, by 2013. Additionally, re-zoning and planning approvals are being sought to build a new edifice on the land.

Mr. Wener recalled that the main objective behind the Quartier Concordia concept is to create a strong University identity that integrates well into a recognized urban environment and that promotes safe pedestrian and bicycle use, reduced traffic, unique urban design, signage, furniture and lighting. The \$25 million project is managed and funded by the City of Montreal. The work is underway. Concordia's contribution to Phase 1 of the project is \$500,000. The construction of Place Bethune will be delivered in four phases, with work scheduled to begin in Fall 2008 and be completed in Spring 2010.

Construction of the tunnel connecting the Guy-Metro Level to the Hall Building/Library Building is scheduled to begin in December 2008 with an opening date for late 2009. The benefits will include a fully integrated Sir George Williams underground network flow for students, faculty and staff, handicapped access, increased pedestrian safety, ease of operation and greater metro access. The total project cost is \$4.5 million and requests have been made for Canada/Quebec infrastructure funding.

Mr. Wener apprised Board members on the status of the retrofitting and renovations of the Guy-Metro Building and the expansion and development of the Loyola Recreation and Athletics facilities. He also spoke of other opportunities such as the granting of an emphyteutic lease or the sale of Bishop Court in order to allow the funding of other endeavors and the conversion of the Refectory Building into a conference centre. He

concluded his presentation by stating that the biggest challenge remains the search for student residences and also underlined the overriding desire to build a student centre building on the SGW Campus.

Further to this presentation, Mr. Cavell applauded Mr. Wener's efforts, leadership and balanced approach, a sentiment that was acknowledged by the entire Board.

5. Election of members to the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Di Grappa, Rosenshein), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2008-5-8 *THAT the following persons be elected as members of the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science:*

*Dr. David Graham, Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, as Chair;
Me Rita de Santis, a member of the Board of Governors representing the community-at-large, and Dr. Catherine Mackenzie, a member of Board of Governor representing faculty, recommended by the Executive Committee of the Board;
Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Dean of the John Molson School of Business, recommended by the Executive Committee of the Board.*

6. Professional liability waiver for an in-house architect (Document BG-2008-5-D4)

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

R-2008-5-9 *THAT the declaration for the purposes of the Regulations respecting Professional Liability Insurance for members of the Ordre des architectes du Québec regarding in-house architect Caroline Elias be approved, as set out in Document BG-2008-5-D4.*

7. Update on governance matters (Document BG-2008-5-D5)

Since this topic had been covered under Item 1.1: Chair's Remarks, Mr. Kruyt merely noted that a copy of the follow-up letter from the Board Chairs to the Minister of Education was included in the Board documentation.

8. Notice of motion regarding an amendment to articles 15, 25 and 26 of the University By-Laws regarding the addition of the position of Deputy Chancellor (Document BG-2008-5-D6)

Mr. Kruyt conveyed the reasons for proposing the creation of the position of Deputy Chancellor, which would necessitate an amendment to the By-Laws. As required by article 58 of the By-Laws, Document BG-2008-5-D6 constitutes the 15-day written notice of amendment for discussion at the June 19 Board meeting.

9. Report of the President

Mr. Di Grappa expressed his appreciation to Governor Baljit Chadha, his wife Roshi and the Chadha Family Foundation for their generous gift towards the JMSB Building as well as to Governor John Lemieux for his role in the Refectory Campaign.

He thanked Ms. Assayag and her team for the magnificent work accomplished in the preparation of the benefit concert, *Hitting the High Notes*, which raised \$375,000, bringing the four year total to over \$2 million, collected for the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal.

With respect to the labor negotiations, he noted that they are proceeding, with meetings scheduled in connection with CUFA and CUPFA in the coming weeks. The President also encouraged Governors to attend the Convocation ceremonies which will be held at Place des Arts on June 16, 17 and 18.

In closing his report, Mr. Di Grappa underlined the accomplishment of Dean Nabil Esmail whose term is ending on May 31, further to which the following resolution was adopted.

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

R-2008-5-10 *THAT the Board of Governors acknowledge the significant contributions during the eleven-year tenure of Dean Nabil Esmail to the development of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science and to Concordia University, the latter's strong leadership which lead to growth in the Faculty's enrolment, in particular at the graduate level, and in research and to the development of leading-edge programs.*

10. Monthly reports

- 10.1 Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Relations - Ms. Kathy Assayag (Document BG-2008-5-D7)
- 10.2 Vice-President, Services - Mr. Roger Côté (Acting) (Document BG-2008-5-D8)
- 10.3 Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies - Dr. Louise Dandurand (Document BG-2008-5-D9)
- 10.4 Vice-President, Finance - Mr. Larry English (Document BG-2008-5-D10)
- 10.5 Vice-President, External Relations and Secretary-General - Me Bram Freedman (BG-2008-5-D11)
- 10.6 Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs - Dr. David Graham (Document BG-2008-5-D12)
- 10.7 Special Communications Advisor to the President - Mr. John Parisella (Document BG-2008-5-D13)

There was no supplemental information to add to the written reports.

10. Any other business

There was no other business to bring before the Board.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2008, at 8 a.m., on the SGW Campus, in Room GM 407-1.

12. Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors