

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

Held on Thursday, March 7, 2013, at 8:30 a.m.
via conference call

PRESENT

Governors: Mr. Norman Hébert jr., *Chair*, Dr. Shimon Amir, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Jeff Bicher, Mr. Tim Brodhead, Me Antoinette Bozac, Mr. Craig Buchanan, Mr. Erik Chevrier, Me Francesco Ciampini, Mr. Howard Davidson, Mr. Jean-Pierre Desrosiers, Prof. Jean Freed Dr. Norman Ingram, Dr. Lawrence Kryzanowski, Me John Lemieux, Dr. William Lynch, Mr. Jacques Lyrette, Mr. Tony Meti, Mr. Michael Novak, Dr. Alan Shepard, *President and Vice-Chancellor*, Ms. Annie Tobias

Also attending: Mr. Philippe Beauregard, Me Bram Freedman, Mr. Patrick Kelley

ABSENT

Governors: Prof. Daniel Cross, Ms. Hélène Fortin, Ms. Lex Gill, Ms. Mélanie La Couture, Me Marie-José Nadeau, *Vice-Chair*

Alternate Governor: Mr. Andrew Roberts

Non-voting Observer: Mr. L. Jacques Ménard, *Chancellor*

1. **Call to Order**

The Secretary having confirmed quorum, Mr. Hébert called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. and thanked Board members for making themselves available for this special Board meeting.

At the Chair's invitation, Dr. Shepard updated Governors on the two main decisions made during the summit on higher education which he attended on February 25-26 with regard to the establishment of working groups and the increase of tuition fees.

With respect to tuition fees, he apprised the Board of a 3% indexation beginning next Fall. While this will produce \$70 per FTE, the University will only receive about \$40 per FTE for the coming year, since the government will retain 35% of that new money to increase student aid.

The President explained that this news is tempered by the government's decision to maintain the budget cuts totalling \$250 million to the university network for the ongoing and next fiscal years. For Concordia, this translates into a cut of \$13.2 million for the ongoing year and \$13.2 million for the next year spread over 7 years.

Dr. Shepard also briefed the Board on his response to a letter published in *Le Devoir* a few days ago suggesting that the percentage of the province's Anglophone population dictate the percentage of government funding of the English-language universities as well as the upcoming strike vote of the full-time faculty members.

2. Waiving of public presentation for the candidate for the position of Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs (Document BG-2013-3-D1)

Dr. Shepard indicated that his proposal was in keeping with the External Governance Review Committee and PricewaterhouseCoopers recommendations for a review of the University's human resources practices. He noted that the required 30-day notice of motion to make an exception to Policy BD-5 had been given at the January 30 Board meeting.

As Chair of the search, Dr. Shepard made the point that the current process of bringing the finalists into the public forum will not serve the University's best interests. This process jeopardizes the slate of candidates, since it can deter individuals who have thriving and successful careers at other institutions from applying. Moreover, the internet era has changed the playing field since there is no more anonymity. He assured the Board that rigorous background checks by the search consultant and himself are an integral part of the process.

He referred to the survey provided in the documentation which shows that the majority of universities no longer hold public presentations, noting that University of Toronto and Université de Montréal can be added to that list.

Dr. Shepard apprised the Board that his proposal had received strong support when presented to a joint meeting of the Steering Committee of Senate and the Executive Committee of the Board held last November, as well as when discussed with the Provost Search Committee. He had mentioned it at the last Senate meeting, as well.

At this time Dr. Shepard was seeking the Board's approval to waive the requirement of public presentation for the ongoing Provost search. As mandated by the Board last September, the Human Resources Committee is currently reviewing those policies and will be presenting proposals for the Board's approval in the Spring.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Shepard, Bicher), it was RESOLVED by the required 2/3 majority:

R-2013-3-1 *Whereas the required 30-day notice of motion to make an exception to the Rules and Procedures for Senior Administrative Appointments (Policy BD-5) was given to the Board of Governors at its meeting of January 30, 2013;*

Be it resolved that the Board of Governors approve the waiving of the application of articles 34 to 39 inclusively of the Rules and Procedures for Senior Administrative Appointments (Policy BD-5) for the ongoing search for the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs.

Further to the vote, Dr. Shepard thanked Board members for their show of confidence.

3. Other Business

There was no other business to bring before the Board at this time.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors