

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

Held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013,
immediately following the Restricted Closed Session
in Room GM 410 (Board of Governors Meeting Room)
located on the 4th floor of the Guy-Metro Building,
1550 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West
on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Governors: Mr. Norman Hébert jr., *Chair*, Dr. Shimon Amir, *Vice-Chair*, Dr. Sandra Betton, Mr. Jeff Bicher, Me Antoinette Bozac, Mr. Tim Brodhead, Mr. Craig Buchanan, Mr. Erik Chevrier, Me Francesco Ciampini, Dr. Norman Ingram, Ms. Mélanie La Couture, Me John Lemieux, Dr. Edward Little, Dr. William Lynch, Mr. Michael Novak, Dr. Alan Shepard, *President and Vice-Chancellor*, Ms. Annie Tobias, Ms. Melissa Kate Wheeler

Alternate Governor: Ms. Melanie Hotchkiss

Also attending: Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon, Mr. Philippe Beauregard, Dr. Graham Carr, Mr. William Cheaib, Mr. Roger Côté, Me Bram Freedman, Mr. Patrick Kelley, Dr. Lisa Ostiguy

ABSENT

Governors: Mr. Jean-Pierre Desrosiers, Ms. Hélène Fortin, Me Marie-José Nadeau, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Georges Paulez, Prof. Maria Peluso, Ms. Suzanne Sauvage

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

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Hébert called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Governor Jacques Lyrette, who passed away on November 18, and Donald McNaughton, former Board Chair and Governor Emeritus, who passed away on November 27.

He also underlined the letter included in the Board package from Rev. Ellie Hummel with respect to donations to the Student Emergency and Food Fund.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2013-8-2 *That the Agenda be approved, with the removal of items 2 and 8 from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.*

1.2 Recognition of Dr. Marguerite Mendell (Document BG-2013-8-D2)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2013-8-3 *That the Board of Governors applaud and congratulate Dr. Marguerite Mendell for being awarded the Prix du Québec (Prix Marie-Andrée-Bertrand), the government of Quebec's highest distinction, in recognition of her engagement, dedication and outstanding contribution to important social innovations leading to the improvement of the collective well-being of society.*

CONSENT

3. Report on compliance with fiscal requirements (Document BG-2013-8-D3)

The report of the Chief Financial Officer on compliance with fiscal requirement was provided for information purposes.

4. Report on compliance with environmental legislation and health and safety regulations (Document BG-2013-8-D4)

The report of the Vice-President, Services on compliance with environmental legislation and health and safety regulations was provided for information purposes.

5. Finance Committee report (Document BG-2013-8-D5)

This report was provided for information purposes.

6. Request for the use of the Concordia name (Document BG-2013-8-D6)

R-2013-8-4 *That the request to use the Concordia name by the Concordia Food Coalition, subject to the conditions set out in the Policy on the use of Concordia University's Name, Logo and Related Insignia, and the Governance of its Visual Character (Policy SG-4), be approved.*

7. Appointment to the Employee Benefits Committee (Document BG-2013-8-D7)

R-2013-8-5 *That the re-appointment of Mr. Desmond O'Neill to the Employee Benefits Committee for a term beginning on January 1, 2014 and ending on December 31, 2015 be approved.*

REGULAR

2. Adoption of October 16, 2013 Minutes

The following modifications were brought to the Minutes:

- on page 2, under item 6, the addition of Dr. Shepard's statement that the *Policy on Intellectual Property* will be reviewed this academic year regarding its impact on undergraduate and graduate students; and
- on page 4, under item 7.3, the addition of the word "concerns" at the end of the last paragraph.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2013-8-6 *That the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of the Board of Governors held on October 16, 2013, be approved as amended.*

8. Employee Benefits Committee recommendations regarding an amendment to the pension plan text and restated pension plan text (Document BG-2013-8-D8)

Further to questions, it was clarified that the Board was being asked to approve a minor amendment to the text of the plan regarding a change of title, as recommended by the Employee Benefits Committee at its meeting of November 18, 2013.

Additionally, the Board was being asked to approve the restated text of the pension plan, incorporating the above-noted amendment as well as amendments previously approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting of January 12, 2012.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2013-8-7 *That, on recommendation of the Employee Benefits Committee, the Board of Governors approve the amendment to the text of the Pension Plan for the Employees of Concordia University as well as the restated text of the Pension Plan for the Employees of Concordia University, as outlined in Document BG-2013-8-D8.*

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.

10. President's report (Document BG-2013-8-D9)

In addition to his written report, Dr. Shepard spoke of the University's appearance, which occurs every three years as part of its reporting requirements, before the Commission Parlementaire on November 28 which went very well. He noted that it was a great team effort and that he was proud of the University's performance. He thanked Mr. Hébert who also presented to the National Assembly Commission.

11. Undergraduate student fee levies

11.1 Collection of a new fee levy for the Concordia Food Coalition (Document BG-2013-8-D10)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2013-8-8 *That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a fee levy of \$0.08 per credit from all undergraduate students to support the Concordia Food Coalition, to be implemented with registration for the Winter 2014 term (2013/4), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.*

11.2 Suspension of the collection of a fee levy for L'Organe (Document BG-2013-8-D11)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2013-8-9 *That the Board of Governors authorize the University to suspend the collection of a fee levy of \$0.06 per credit currently collected from all undergraduate students to support L'Organe for the Winter, Summer and Fall 2014 terms (2013/4, 2014/1 and 2014/2 respectively).*

Further to a query about the amount of activity fees paid by students, it was agreed that a table will be provided at the next meeting, showing all voluntary and compulsory fees paid by students.

12. University's response to the Quebec Charter of Values and ratification of process
(Document BG-2013-8-D21 was not distributed)

Dr. Shepard summarized the background and apprised Governors that the University is close to making its position known but that it had to be careful and thoughtful about it, emphasizing the importance of an orderly process.

Of the 200 emails he had received from the University community, only 6 or 7 were in favor of the Charter. Dr. Shepard conveyed the three premises on which the statement would be founded - the University's particular history, the potential effect of the Charter on recruitment and retention and the autonomy of the University. He had received Senate's input last Friday and indicated that a collective edit of the final statement was not feasible. Therefore, he was proposing that the Board authorize the Executive Committee to approve the final version of the statement, together with Senate's Steering Committee.

Me Freedman presented a high-level summary of the proposed Charter which calls for the religious neutrality and secular nature of public bodies, including universities and all its employees. He outlined the duties and obligations of the personnel, which restrict the wearing religious symbols and oblige employees to have their face uncovered. He reviewed the rules of application provided in the Charter and the handling of accommodation requests on religious grounds, specifying that the Charter does not permit accommodation that would allow religious symbols and covering of the face.

Dr. Shepard asked Board members for their views on the proposed Charter, and more specifically if the University should request an exemption. Governors were not in favor of asking for an exemption to the Charter since this would imply that they accept its legitimacy and, overall, they felt that several components of the proposed Charter are of concern.

R-2013-8-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Board of Governors delegate to Executive Committee, in conjunction with Senate's Steering Committee, the task of approving the final wording of the University's statement on the proposed Charter of Secular Values, in accordance with the general discussion held at its meeting of December 11, 2013.*

13. Presentation on eConcordia/KnowledgeOne (Document BG-2013-8-D12)

Mr. Kelley's presentation focused on the financial relationship between KnowledgeOne (K1) and the University. He outlined the legal structure between eConcordia (eC), K1 and the University and spoke of the University's enrolments serviced by K1. Mr. Kelley showed graphs regarding K1's revenues and expenses, which are included in Note 18 of the University's financial statements, outlining the financial summary and benefits to the University. The full details of Mr. Kelley's presentation were included in the Board documentation.

Mr. Tony Meti, President and Chief Executive Officer of K1, followed Mr. Kelley's presentation by addressing the business and operational relationship between K1 and the University. He provided a snapshot of K1 and summarized its history. He conveyed K1's approach with the University, specifying that 95% of K1's business is with academic institutions, Concordia being its primary client, the other 5% of its business being with commercial or corporate clients.

He reviewed K1's organizational structure and outlined its general operational model. He specified that the decision to offer an online course always originates with the University which entirely controls its content, K1's role being to ensure the online delivery of that content. Mr. Meti spoke of the Quebec, Canadian and American e-learning markets. K1 is well positioned to grow with the increasing popularity of online learning, and its success will benefit the University. The full details of Mr. Meti's presentation were included in the Board documentation.

Pursuant to the presentations, in response to a query Dr. Bacon confirmed that the evaluations of online courses are treated in the same manner as those of traditional courses. Given the hour and that some Governors had several questions, Mr. Hébert proposed they send them to Ms. Tessier and that the discussion be continued at the next meeting.

14. Other business

With respect to the 2013 Centraide Campaign, Mr. Hébert was pleased to announce that the University had reached its goal of \$190,000.

Dr. Betton spoke of the upcoming JMSB MBA International Case Competition and invited them to communicate with her if they wished to attend the closing banquet on January 10, 2014.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors