

UNIVERSITY SENATEMINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF MAY 25, 2001ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Mr. P. Blais; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. W. Byers; Mr. M. Coker; Prof. C. Cupples; Dean N. Esmail; Ms. S. Friesinger; Prof. C. Giguère; Dean C. Jackson; Mr. A. McAusland; Ms. M. Mullarkey; Mr. S. Nazzal; Prof. S. Panet-Raymond; Ms. L. Prendergast; Prof. P. Rist; Prof. L. Roberge; Mr. R. Sebaaly; Prof. H. Shulman; Dean M. Singer; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Prof. P. Thornton; Prof. J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Vallejo

ABSENT: Mr. C. Adam; Prof. A. Ahmad; Dean M. Anvari; Prof. C. Bayne; Dean C. Bédard; Dr. D. Boisvert; Mr. W. Curran; Prof. M. Gourlay; Ms. S. Grewal; Prof. E. Jacobs; Ms. J. Laberge; Ms. J. Landry; Dr. J. Lightstone; Ms. N. Sajnani; Mr. C. Schulz; Dr. W. Sellers; Prof. R. Tremblay

ALSO ATTENDING: Me B. Freedman, Prof. E. Saccá (Acting Dean in the absence of Dean Bédard)

Documents associated with the minutes

US-2001-6-D2 Recommendations of the Academic Programs Committee regarding curriculum changes

US-2001-6-D3 Recommendations of the Graduate Curriculum Committee

US-2001-6-D4 to D6 Major graduate curriculum changes: Faculty of Arts and Science

US-2001-6-D7 to D9 Major graduate curriculum changes: John Molson School of Business

US-2001-6-D10 to D13 Major undergraduate curriculum changes: Faculty of Arts and Science

US-2001-6-D14 Minor graduate curriculum changes: Faculty of Arts and Science

US-2001-6-D15 Minor graduate curriculum changes: John Molson School of Business

US-2001-6-D16 Modification of the implementation date of curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

US-2001-6-D17 Preliminary operating budget - Projection 2000-01

US-2001-6-D18 Projection 2000-01 - Netted summary as of March 2001

US-2001-6-D19 Projection 2000-01 - Netted as of March 2001

US-2001-6-D20 Plan for a balanced budget

US-2001-6-D21 Évolution du solde du fonds de fonctionnement de l'exercice terminé le 31 mai 2000

US-2001-6-D22 Recommendations of the Academic Programs Committee regarding academic policies

US-2001-6-D23 Memo from General Counsel regarding revisions to academic policies

US-2001-6-D24 Code of Conduct (Academic)

US-2001-6-D25 Academic Re-evaluation Procedures

US-2001-6-D26 Policy on the establishment of tribunal hearing pools

US-2001-6-D27 Code of Rights and Responsibilities

US-2001-6-D28 Policy on Postdoctoral Fellows

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Blais asked that items 10.1 and 10.3 be interchanged.

R-2001-6-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Blais, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved as revised.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held May 11, 2001

R-2001-6-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Al-Khalili, Lowy), it was unanimously resolved that the minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 11, 2001 be approved as submitted.

4. Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Remarks from the Rector

Dr. Lowy waived his remarks.

6. Items for Information

Mr. Coker informed Senate that, at a recent referendum, graduate students had overwhelmingly voted in favour of an increased GSA fee.

Dean Singer had heard of a possible increase in the fees charged by the government to international undergraduate students. Should this be true, the tuition fees for international undergraduates in the Faculty of Arts and Science will likely be raised since those fees are tied to official government rates.

Acting Dean Saccá was pleased to mention that the Graduation List included the first four graduates from the South Africa Special Individualized Program. More students are expected to graduate next year.

7. Question period

In response to Prof. Shulman's question about the University's approach to the deficit, Dr. Lowy reminded Senators that Concordia has achieved a balanced budget and reduced its long-term debt while some other universities have not balanced their budget, thereby increasing their debt load. In retrospect, Dr. Lowy reaffirmed that the University had made the right decision, both in principle and in practical terms. He said that by substantially reducing our long-term debt, we have significantly reduced interest charges. Moreover, the University would not have been in a position to plan for the building projects had the deficit not been decreased. Furthermore, Concordia's reputation for efficiency has been greatly enhanced among its donors, graduates and the community in general.

In view of the questions surrounding the relevance of the School of Graduate Studies, and considering the ongoing search for a Dean, Mr. Blais felt that the time has come for Senate

to debate the future of that unit. Dr. O'Brien asked the Secretary of Senate to bring this matter to Steering Committee.

8. Recommendations of the Academic Programs Committee

8.1 Major graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

R-2001-6-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Saccá, Singer), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Senate Documents US-2001-6-D4 to D6, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Senate Document US-2001-6-D2 and the Graduate Curriculum Committee in Senate Document US-2001-6-D3 as revised.*

8.2 Major graduate curriculum changes - John Molson School of Business

R-2001-6-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Saccá, Tomberlin), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, set out in Senate Documents US-2001-6-D7 to D9, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Senate Document US-2001-6-D2 and the Graduate Curriculum Committee in Senate Document US-2001-6-D3 as revised.*

8.3 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

R-2001-6-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Byers), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Senate Documents US-2001-6-D10 to D13, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Senate Document US-2001-6-D2.*

8.4 Minor graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

8.5 Minor graduate curriculum changes - John Molson School of Business

Dr. O'Brien pointed out that minor changes are submitted to Senate for information purposes only.

8.6 Implementation date - Curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

R-2001-6-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Esmail, Al-Khalili), it was unanimously resolved that the implementation date of the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Senate Document US-2001-5-D6 as revised and adopted by Senate at its meeting of May 11, 2001, be amended to come into effect during the 2001-2002 academic year, as set out in Senate Document US-2001-6-D16.*

9. Update on 2000-2001 operating budget

Mr. Larry English, Chief Financial Officer, presented a slide that showed the state of the Quebec university network as at May 31, 2000. The Education Ministry made a special contribution totaling \$100 million, of which Concordia received just over \$9 million. Following that contribution, Concordia's accumulated deficit as of that date was \$8 million, compared to \$36 million five years ago. Consequently, the University will benefit from savings because interest charges will be much lower. Mr. English pointed out, however, that the bottom line may change since final government adjustments and allocations for the current year will be confirmed on June 1, at which time preliminary figures will be given for the next year, as well.

Mr. English indicated that the 2000-2001 preliminary operating budget, approved in December 2000, had forecast a deficit of \$17,000 but has been revised to indicate a \$1.2 million deficit. He explained the main changes warranting this revision, pointing out that the details of the variances have been provided on pages 4 to 7 of Document D19.

Document D20, entitled "Plan for a Balanced Budget" was then commented upon by the Chief Financial Officer. This plan shows the funds the University should be receiving over the next three years pursuant to the performance contract signed with the government, subject to the University's meeting its objectives. To summarize, Mr. English said that Concordia is on target, heading for a balanced budget and in fine financial shape.

Senators then viewed another slide relating to the additional new funds, as per the performance contracts, received by each institution. An aggregate amount of \$95,165 million was allocated on a discretionary basis to Quebec universities. Of the aforementioned amount, Concordia received a mere \$1.5 million for Cinema and Software Engineering. Mr. English reported that all the Quebec universities were displeased by the absence of a rational basis for distributing these additional funds.

10. Recommendations from the Academic Programs regarding academic policies

10.1 Policy on the establishment of tribunal hearing pools

10.2 Revisions to the Code of Conduct (Academic)

10.3 Revisions to the Academic Re-Evaluation Procedures

10.4 Revisions to the Code of Rights and Responsibilities

Me Freedman informed Senate that the Task Force on Academic Regulations, chaired by Dr. Jim Jans, had been mandated by the Provost to review academic regulations and to propose amendments where appropriate. Me Freedman outlined the main changes to the policies and the rationale behind them.

A number of amendments were proposed by some student Senators. Citing the late hour, the amount of time that should be dedicated to the matter and the absence of the University's chief academic officer Dr. Lightstone, Dean Singer suggested that the discussion be deferred to the September Senate meeting. A discussion ensued on the urgency of proceeding and the process the policies should follow.

R-2001-6-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Lowy), it was resolved with three opposed that the discussion on the Policy on the establishment of tribunal hearing pools, the Code of Conduct (Academic), the Academic Re-Evaluation Procedures and the Code of Rights and Responsibilities be tabled and that those policies be referred to the Academic Programs Committee, with the understanding that said Committee report back to the September Senate meeting.*

Dr. Lowy asked that the students provide Me Freedman with their proposed amendments and that the Provost be informed of the outcome of today's discussion.

11. Policy on Postdoctoral Fellows

R-2001-6-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Saccá, Singer), it was unanimously resolved:*

Whereas in December 1999 the federal granting councils issued a Statement of Principles providing guidelines on the treatment of postdoctoral fellows in Canadian universities;

Whereas the aforementioned councils requested that universities make changes to existing policies if necessary, or initiate steps to implement a policy on postdoctoral fellows if one does not exist;

That the Policy on Postdoctoral Fellows, as set out in Senate Document US-2001-6-D28, be approved.

12. Speaker of Senate

Dr. O'Brien left the Chamber and Dr. Lowy chaired the meeting thereafter. Dr. Lowy affirmed that a call for nominations for a Speaker of Senate had been published in Concordia's *Thursday Report*. He reported that the Senate Steering Committee had nominated the incumbent Speaker, Dr. John O'Brien, and that no other nominations had been received.

R-2001-6-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Roberge), it was unanimously resolved that Dr. John O'Brien be acclaimed Speaker of Senate for the 2001-2002 academic year; and*

That Senate express its appreciation to Dr. O'Brien for his skilful chairmanship of Senate during the past year as well as his willingness to continue as Speaker.

13. Other business

R-2001-6-13 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Blais, Mullarkey), it was unanimously resolved that Senate congratulate Dr. Frederick Lowy on receiving an Honourary Doctorate from McGill University.*

14. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate is scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2001, at 1 p.m.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m., on a motion moved by Dean Singer and seconded by Mr. Blais.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors and Senate