

UNIVERSITY SENATEMINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2002ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. L. English; Dr. J. Lightstone; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Ms. C. Basmaji; Prof. C. Bayne; Dean C. Bédard; Mr. A. Beedassy; Mr. P. Blais; Dr. D. Boisvert; Prof. W. Bukowski; Mr. W. Curran; Mr. B. Desgreniers; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Prof. M. Gourlay; Ms. Linda Healey; Prof. V. S. Hoa; Dean C. Jackson; Prof. E. Jacobs; Ms. C. Leduc; Mr. R. Luppicini; Mr. A. McAusland; Prof. D. Morin; Mr. S. Nazzal; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Prof. P. Rist; Prof. L. Roberge; Dean M. Singer; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Ms. S. Stea; Prof. P. Thornton; Interim Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Vallejo

ABSENT: Ms. L. Accary; Prof. A. Ahmad; Prof. C. Cupples; Prof. A. English; Dean N. Esmail; Ms. S. Friesinger; Ms. M. Mullarkey; Mr. A. Munro; Prof. S. Panet-Raymond; Prof. H. Shulman; Prof. R. Tremblay

Documents associated with the Minutes

US-2002-1-D1	Report from Academic Programs Committee
US-2002-1-D2	Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
US-2002-1-D3	Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts
US-2002-1-D4	Appointments to tribunal hearing pools
US-2002-1-D5	Text of GSA motion regarding an additional seat on Senate
US-2002-1-D6	Memo outlining proposed revisions to the Special Graduation Awards Committee

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. He drew attention to the order of the agenda items and conveyed Steering Committee's decision to place the more pressing matters higher up on the agenda.

Dr. O'Brien also informed Senators that former Director of Libraries, Al Mate, passed away shortly before Christmas. Mr. Mate, whose career spanned over 35 years, served as Concordia's Director of Libraries from 1985 to 1990.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2002-1-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Al-Khalili, Bédard), it was unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved as submitted.*

Mr. Blais informed Senate that Ms. Stea had some questions regarding the curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts. However, she would be delayed since she was presently writing the University Writing Test. Senators agreed to postpone item 5.2 until Ms. Stea's arrival.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held November 30, 2001

R-2002-1-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Hoa, Beedassy), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 30, 2001 be approved as submitted.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee

5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

R-2002-1-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Bukowski, Jacobs), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Document US-2002-1-D2, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2002-1-D1.*

6. Remarks from the Rector

Dr. Lowy outlined the position he will be taking at next week's Board of Governors meeting with respect to the construction of new buildings. The Loyola Science Complex project is on time and on budget. However, the other Faculties require new facilities as much as Arts & Science. The total expenditure for all the construction projects is estimated at \$300 million. Dr. Lowy will have to convince the Board to approve that expenditure.

It is in the University's best interests to proceed as rapidly as possible with the construction of the downtown buildings. Accordingly, the Rector will provide a rationale at the January 23 Board meeting. At the February 13 Board meeting, he will present detailed construction and financing plans and introduce a notice of motion for approval of these plans at the March 20 Board meeting.

The \$300 million would be financed as follows: approximately \$100 million from donations, another \$100 million from borrowing and the last \$100 million from capitalization of rentals and various government infrastructure programs.

Concordia is on an uphill battle to achieve parity with older universities. Although parity has been achieved with respect to the quality of programs and teaching and the management of finances and resources, it is lagging with regards to research, endowments and physical facilities. Dr. Lowy reminded Senate that neither Loyola nor Sir George Williams had the facilities that could accommodate the growth of enrolments following the 1974 merger. The Hall Building, built for 5000 students, now serves up to 15,000 each day. Many of the University's programs and activities are housed in inadequate rented spaces. Unlike most other universities, Concordia does not have a student center.

Dr. Lowy conceded that it would be a challenge to persuade the Board to borrow such a large sum because of the financial risks involved. However, the construction of new facilities is crucial to Concordia's success in meeting student needs, achieving its educational and research objectives and attracting and retaining excellent professors. Thus, Dr. Lowy is hopeful that the Board will approve a loan of \$100 million so that ground can be broken as soon as possible.

7. Items for information

Dean Bédard had three announcements.

- 1) He was pleased to welcome Benoit Morin, the new Director, Research Services, as of January 3. Dr. Morin was formerly the Tri-Council Policy Advisor on Human Research Ethics for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in Ottawa.
- 2) The final figures for the indirect cost of research (“frais indirects”) have been determined by the Quebec Government and were communicated to the University shortly before Christmas. The Office of Research Services is currently calculating and distributing the funds in accordance with the University’s policy on indirect costs recovery (Policy PR-2).
- 3) Dean Bédard was delighted to inform Senate that Dr. Marie-France Wagner, of the Département d’Études françaises, is one of five recipients of a SSHRC-MCRM grant in excess of \$1 million. Senators joined Dean Bédard in congratulating Dr. Wagner and the Département d’Études françaises for this accomplishment.

Provost Jack Lightstone informed Senate that Christine Webb has been named Director, Institute for Co-operative Education. Ms. Webb comes to Concordia from Memorial University in Newfoundland and brings with her a great deal of experience and vision.

8. Question period

Referring to a price of a particular book, Mr. Blais wondered why the price of that book was quite higher at the bookstore than if purchased through Chapters.com. He found this a bit odd considering the fact the Concordia University Bookstore is reported to be barely breaking even.

Vice-Rector, Services Michael Di Grappa could not answer specifically about the book in question but confirmed that Director Lina Lipscombe had assured him that the bookstore has the lowest mark-up of any other university bookstore in Canada.

9. Appointments

R-2002-1-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Bédard), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to the Faculty Tribunal Hearing Pool and the Student Tribunal Hearing Pool, as set out Document US-2002-1-D4, be approved.

10. GSA motion regarding an additional seat on Senate

GSA President Rocci Luppardini read the text of the motion to add an additional graduate seat on Senate. He stated the importance of graduate student representation on various University bodies and that such representation should not be based solely on the proportion of graduate students enrolled in the University. Mr. Luppardini argued that past changes in the attribution of number of seats at the Board of Governors demonstrate that such adjustments are possible. The intention of his motion is to improve graduate student participation in the governance of the University.

The Speaker reminded Senators that a change in the number of seats of Senate would entail an amendment to the University By-Laws, requiring the approval by the Board of Governors.

The Provost said that the proposed motion had been discussed by Steering Committee. However, further to a statistical analysis, it had concluded that the relative number of graduate students had not changed and therefore an additional seat was not justified. Moreover, Dr. Lightstone recalled that in 1986 the composition of Senate was substantially reduced from approximately 90 members to the current composition of 37 voting members and 10 others. At the time, an important consideration was to reduce the size of Senate to allow a more active participation. There had also been an 18-month discussion on the balance of representation between faculty, students and academic administrators.

Mr. Luppicini responded that adding one seat was not unworkable. Further, there has been no graduate representative from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science nor from the John Molson School of Business for over a decade. They were not eligible to sit as GSA representatives because students from both faculties had chosen not to pay the GSA fees.

To be consistent with the argument of faculty representation, Dr. Oppenheimer suggested that the motion be amended to specify that students should be from different faculties. A long discussion followed during which Dean Tomberlin, Prof. Al-Khalili and Ms. Basmaji expressed support for the motion, provided that the aforementioned specification be included. Mr. Nazzal agreed that while representation from different faculties was preferable, this was an internal GSA issue. Messrs. Desgreniers and Blais expressed their support for the motion and seized the opportunity to add that independent students should also have seats on governing bodies.

Dr. Lightstone stated that the non-payment of GSA fees was not relevant to Senate. The naming of students should not be dependent upon the payment of fees. If the GSA wants wider representation, it is free to appoint any student, as long as the appointee meets Senate's eligibility requirement. Dean Boisvert reminded Senate that the GSA is recognized by the University as the sole appointing body of graduate students, regardless of the accreditation issue and payment of fees.

R-2002-1-5 *The following motion, duly moved and seconded (Luppicini, Leduc), was defeated with a vote of 9 in favor and 10 opposed:*

Whereas there are presently no graduate students on Senate from three of the four Faculties;

Whereas undergraduate student representatives from all Faculties are present at Senate;

Whereas graduate students in each faculty are recognized as having certain faculty specific interests with specialized needs to be satisfied;

Whereas the logic of seat allocation on Senate is determined by sector representativeness not statistical representativeness;

That Senate add a graduate seat to enable graduate students to have stronger representation on Senate.

5.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts

Dean Jackson responded to Ms. Stea's query regarding the implications of the changes referred to in the third paragraph on the covering letter of Document D3 on the Fine Arts Faculty as a whole.

R-2002-1-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Jackson, Bédard), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Document US-2002-1-D3, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2002-1-D1.*

11. Revisions to the Special Graduation Awards Committee

Dr. Lightstone apprised Senators that the majority of the modifications were related to housekeeping matters, the only substantive change pertaining to the inclusion of a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

A discussion ensued on the relevance of setting a minimum GPA for non-academic awards, some students expressing that this modification would be limiting to students who could be otherwise nominated for such awards. Dr. Lightstone mentioned that since these medals were awarded at Convocation, there was a presumption that they had at least some academic component to them.

Dean Bédard noted that the Stanley G. French Medal was a graduate award. As such, the minimum 60 credits requirement does not apply to master and doctoral students. Furthermore, graduate students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 to stay in their program. As a result, the following amendment was voted on.

R-2002-1-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Bédard, Lightstone), it was unanimously resolved that Document US-2002-1-D6 be amended to delete the reference to the Stanley G. French Medal in the fifth paragraph of the Criteria section on page 2.*

With regards to the discussion on the 3.0 GPA for the other medals, Senate was quite receptive to Prof. Rist's suggestion to add the word "usually" and proceeded to vote on the following amendment.

R-2002-1-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Rist, Roberge), it was unanimously resolved that Document US-2002-1-D6 be amended to add the word "usually" in the fourth and sixth paragraph on page 2 in the Criteria section so that they read "The candidate is usually expected" and "The medallist is usually expected".*

A vote was then taken on the main motion.

R-2002-1-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lightstone, Blais), it was resolved with two opposed (Nazzal, Beedassy):*

Whereas Senate established the Special Graduation Awards Committee on January 14, 1994 as a sub-committee of the Academic Services Committee;

Whereas Senate abolished the Academic Services Committee on June 9, 2000;

Whereas the composition of the Special Graduation Awards Committee should be updated;

Whereas since the year 2000, the Special Graduation Awards Committee has also reviewed the candidates for the Lieutenant Governor's Award;

Whereas review of the criteria used to grant the community awards has been done by Senate Steering Committee;

That the Special Graduation Awards Committee be established as a Standing Committee of Senate, and that the changes to its composition as well as to the criteria of three of the six community awards it grants, as outlined in Senate Document US-2002-1-D6 as amended, be approved.

12. Other business

In response to Ms. Stea's question regarding the reason for the cost increase in the printing lab located the VA building, Dean Jackson explained that high resolution printing costs between \$1.65 and \$2.50 a page outside the University. Therefore, the University charge is still quite reasonable.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate is scheduled for Friday, February 1, 2002, at 2 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m., on a motion moved by Mr. Blais and seconded by Dean Tomberlin.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors and Senate