

UNIVERSITY SENATEMINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2002ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Dr. J. Lightstone; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Prof. A. Ahmad; Ms. C. Basmaji; Prof. C. Bayne; Dean C. Bédard; Mr. A. Beedassy; Mr. P. Blais; Prof. C. Cupples; Mr. W. Curran; Prof. A. English; Dean N. Esmail; Ms. S. Friesinger; Ms. Linda Healey; Prof. V. S. Hoa; Dean C. Jackson; Prof. E. Jacobs; Ms. C. Leduc; Mr. A. McAusland; Prof. D. Morin; Ms. M. Mullarkey; Mr. A. Munro; Mr. S. Nazzal; Prof. S. Panet-Raymond; Prof. L. Roberge; Prof. H. Shulman; Dean M. Singer; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Ms. S. Stea; Prof. P. Thornton; Interim Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. R. Tremblay; Prof. C. Vallejo

ABSENT: Ms. L. Accary; Dr. D. Boisvert; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. B. Desgreniers; Prof. M. Gourlay; Mr. R. Luppicini; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Prof. P. Rist

GUEST: Me Bram Freedman

Documents associated with the Minutes

US-2002-2-D1	Appointments
US-2002-2-D2	Report from Academic Programs Committee
US-2002-2-D3	Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
US-2002-2-D4	Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts
US-2002-2-D5	Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts
US-2002-2-D6	Request for comments from the Task Force to review Permanent Evaluation Procedures for incumbent senior administrators
US-2002-2-D7	Document regarding the establishment of the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering
US-2002-2-D8	Review of University By-Laws
US-2002-2-D9	Steering Committee recommendation regarding the proposed amendments to the University Mission Statement

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m

The Provost was delighted to introduce Dr. Benoit Morin who had recently joined Concordia as Director of Research Services. Dr. Morin, who received his doctorate from the University of Toronto, has over a decade of experience in academic and professional settings. On behalf of all Senators, Dr. Lightstone extended a warm welcome to Dr. Morin.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2002-2-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Bédard, Singer), it was unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved as submitted.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held January 18, 2002

R-2002-2-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Al-Khalili, Leduc), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 18, 2002 be approved as submitted.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Appointments

Dr. O'Brien informed Senate that a correction should be made in Document US-2002-2-D1. The Special Graduate Ceremonies Committee is incorrect and should read Special Graduation Awards Committee.

R-2002-2-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Stea), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to the Academic Programs Committee, the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities, and the Special Graduation Awards Committee, set out in Document US-2002-2-D1 as corrected, be approved.*

6. Recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee

6.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

R-2002-2-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lightstone, Vallejo), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Document US-2002-2-D3, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2002-2-D2.*

6.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts

R-2002-2-5 *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-2002-2-D4 be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2002-2-D2.*

6.3 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Fine Arts

Dr. O'Brien apprised Senate that these minor curriculum changes were presented for information purposes only.

7. Request for comments from the Task Force to review Permanent Evaluation Procedures for incumbent senior administrators

Dr. O'Brien informed Senators that while Senate is invited to make comments on the above-noted proposed procedures, a formal resolution is not required. While comments are welcome on all sections of the document, the Task Force is seeking specific input as to whether or not to include the numerical vote in the Committee's final report and whether or not the Chair of the Committee should have a vote.

Dr. Lightstone related some background information and explained the difference between the document before Senate today and the interim evaluation procedures adopted in January 2001.

In reference to the two questions posed by the Task Force, a clear consensus emerged since all Senators who expressed an opinion were in favor of a) the Chair having a vote only in the case of a tie, and b) the numerical vote being included in the Committee's final report.

Dean Bédard pointed out that since the Dean of Graduate Studies is also an academic dean, the heading *Academic Deans (Faculties)* should be changed to that of *Faculty Deans*. Also, the heading *Dean of Graduate Studies and Research* should be changed to that of *Dean of Graduate Studies*. Further, he also suggested an amendment to the membership of the evaluation committee for the Dean of Graduate Studies in order to specify that the faculty members nominated by each Faculty must have served on the Council of Graduate Studies in the past to ensure that the latter know the incumbent and be in a position to make an informed decision.

The question of faculty and student representation on evaluation committees, and particularly on the evaluation committees for the Rector and the Provost was raised by a number of Senators. Dean Singer wondered why the suggestion from the Arts and Science Faculty Council regarding full-time faculty representation had not been included in the draft before Senate. Ms. Tessier indicated that the Task Force had reviewed the comments received from the Faculty Councils and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies on the draft procedures and had incorporated some, but not all, of the suggestions received.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the aforementioned subject. Many Arts and Science faculty members expressed their view that the number of Arts and Science faculty members on committees should be greater, arguing that the Faculty of Arts and Science represents over 50% of the faculty and students in the University. Student representatives argued the importance of increased representation in general, and more particularly for increased representation of students. However, members of other Faculties were not necessarily in agreement with increasing Arts and Science representation, stating that while other Faculties were smaller, their voices were no less important and should not be muted.

The discussion continued, at which time Dean Singer referred to the Arts and Science proposal of October 2000 sent to the Secretary of Senate in relation to the composition of search committees, which recommended the following:

- to increase the proposed 4 full-time faculty members by one, so that 5 full-time faculty members sit on the committee, two of which would be nominated by the Faculty of Arts and Science and one by each other Faculty.
- to increase the proposed 2 students by one, so that 3 students sit on the committee (one graduate and two undergraduates), with at least one undergraduate from the Faculty of Arts and Science, and the other undergraduate from another Faculty.

The question was called on this proposal, resulting in 17 Senators voting in favor, and six Senators voting against. The Secretary of Senate will convey the outcome of this vote as well as the other comments to the Task Force.

8. Establishment of the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering

Dean Esmail was pleased to inform Senate about this new body proposed by the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. It is an interdisciplinary research and development learning institute for professors and graduate students who are active in the telecommunications, software development, electronics, multimedia, aerospace, financing and banking, automotives, manufacturing, building and construction areas. In response to Prof. Shulman's concern regarding faculty hiring and the relationship between the advisory board and the academic side, Dean Esmail stated the importance of moving ahead with this initiative while agreeing with Prof. Shulman that some details needed to be finalized regarding the structure.

Dean Esmail and Dr. Lightstone mentioned the relevance of moving from the model of permanent research centers to a model that is more interdisciplinary and more flexible in terms of its membership. This interdisciplinary endeavor received enthusiastic support from other Senators, namely Dean Tomberlin who noted that this was a positive development and hoped that it might also extend in the future to include other Faculties.

R-2002-2-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Esmail, Nazzal), it was unanimously resolved that, on the recommendation of the Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council, Senate approve the establishment of the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering, as set out in Senate Document US-2002-2-D7.*

10. Proposed amendment to the University Mission Statement – Recommendation from Senate Steering Committee

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

11. Remarks from the Rector

Dr. Lowy gave an update on the University's building projects. He reminded Senate that permission would be sought at the next meeting of the Board of Governors for a \$300 million overall construction plan, encompassing the Loyola Science Complex and the downtown buildings. Of that amount, one third will be covered by donations, one third from borrowing and one third from the government. Indeed, \$50 million is expected from the Ministry of Education, \$15 million from the Ministry of Science and Technology and an unspecified amount from the infrastructure program for tunnels and connecting corridors. Pursuant to a meeting that Dr. Lowy had with Premier Bernard Landry on February 22, the Rector stated that while he had no written commitment, he was encouraged by the positive attitude of the Premier.

12. Items for information

The Provost was pleased to announce that Concordia had received more than its pro rata share of grants. He informed Senate that two grants had recently been awarded by CFI, the first of which was over \$21 million for a joint proposal by Concordia and UQAM regarding emerging arts (Hexagram), and the second for \$0.5 million, awarded to two new recent hires in the Department of Psychology, Professors Virginia Penhune and Karen Li, in the New Opportunity category.

Dean Bédard reported that Minister Allan Rock announced, on February 28, the release of \$200 million to cover the indirect costs of research incurred by Canadian universities, of which Concordia will receive \$3.06 million. Further, Dean Bédard informed Senate that

NSERC has increased the number of Concordia undergraduates who will benefit from its summer internship program by four, up to 43. He pointed out that aboriginal candidates are not counted in those 43.

13. Question period

Mr. Blais announced that the CSU had recently hired a new Chief Electoral Officer to oversee the upcoming undergraduate student union elections. Mr. Blais was pleased with the Rector's recent statement that the senior administration would remain neutral throughout the election. However, the neutrality of the Provost was challenged, given some of his remarks which had been quoted in the *Canadian Jewish News* as well as in the *Concordia Thursday Report*. Dr. Lightstone responded that he did not intend to be involved in any campaign, but that he was simply expressing his own opinion, to which he was entitled.

Mr. Blais asked the Chief Financial Officer to update Senate on the progress being made regarding the changes to be brought to the students' fees statements. Last year Mr. Blais had asked that the amounts be itemized instead of being grouped together in one lump sum. Mr. English answered that this request had been made about two years ago and would require a modification to the programming of the billing system. Mr. English indicated to Mr. Blais that he would look into the status of this project.

9. Review of the University By-Laws

Dr. O'Brien gave the legal framework of the By-Laws. On the one hand, the Act of Incorporation is enacted by the provincial legislature. Any amendment to the Act of Incorporation requires the passing of a private bill by the National Assembly. On the other hand, the By-Laws are the set of rules that the University has given itself, via the Board of Governors. They are the highest level of internal regulations. They must be adopted by the Board of Governors and ratified by the Corporation. Lastly, there are all the other University policies and regulations that require adoption by Senate and/or the Board of Governors.

Steering Committee had organized the discussion as follows, grouping the proposed modifications in three categories as follows: a) those that are purely editorial, requiring no explanation; b) those that reflect longstanding or current practices. A short explanation is provided for newer Senators who may not be aware of historical aspects; and c) those that are substantive, requiring a rationale.

Dr. O'Brien mentioned that the By-Laws are being submitted to Senate for discussion and collection of comments. The Rector, on behalf of Senate, will convey Senate's comments to the Board of Governors. While Senate's input is welcome on all parts of the By-Laws, comments are sought more particularly regarding Articles 41 and following which deal specifically with Senate and Faculty Council matters.

Senators then proceeded to review the document. The changes identified as editorial were all dealt with and accepted, subject to a modification to articles 4 and 15 to standardize the text. Discussion then continued with the changes to reflect longstanding practice. An amendment to articles 7 and 18 was agreed upon in order to add a reference that the vacancy must be filled by the appropriate constituency. It was also agreed that the changes to article 41 should be discussed under the substantive changes, especially the proposed change to article 41 l). All the longstanding changes on page 1 of the summary were dealt with and accepted, save for article 41 as stated above.

Therefore, it was agreed that at the next Senate meeting, the discussion on the longstanding changes would resume with article 44 on page 2 of the summary, and once those were disposed of, the discussion would move on to the substantive changes.

14. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

15. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate is scheduled for Friday, April 5, 2002, at 2 p.m.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m., on a motion moved by Prof. Stathopoulos and seconded by Ms. Leduc.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of the Board of Governors and Senate