

UNIVERSITY SENATEMINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2002ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Prof. M. Danis; Dr. J. Lightstone; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Prof. C. Bayne; Dean C. Bédard; Mr. P. Blais; Prof. W. Bukowski; Mr. W. Curran; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. E. Jacobs; Ms. C. Leduc; Mr. A. McAusland; Prof. D. Morin; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Prof. S. Panet-Raymond; Prof. L. Roberge; Dean M. Singer; Ms. S. Stea; Prof. P. Thornton; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. R. Tremblay; Prof. C. Vallejo

ABSENT: Ms. L. Accary; Prof. A. Ahmad; Ms. C. Basmaji; Mr. A. Beedassy; Dr. D. Boisvert; Prof. C. Cupples; Mr. B. Desgreniers; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Prof. A. English; Mr. L. English; Ms. S. Friesinger; Prof. M. Gourlay; Prof. V. S. Hoa; Dean C. Jackson; Mr. R. Luppicini; Ms. M. Mullarkey; Mr. A. Munro; Mr. S. Nazzal; Prof. P. Rist; Prof. H. Shulman; Prof. T. Stathopoulos

ALSO ATTENDING: Prof. J. Locke, Vice-Dean, Curriculum and Appraisals, Arts and Science, Prof. J. Capobianco, Vice-Dean, Research and International Relations, Arts and Science; Mr. T. Too (representing the Registrar in the absence of Ms. L. Healey)

Documents associated with the Minutes

US-2002-3-D1 Report from Academic Programs Committee
 US-2002-3-D2 to D5 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
 US-2002-3-D6 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
 US-2002-3-D7 Proposal to establish a Chief Research Officer
 US-2002-2-D8 and US-2002-3-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 2:17 p.m.

Dr. O'Brien informed the Senators that Me Bram Freedman would be Acting Secretary as Danielle Tessier was participating in a meeting of an Appeals Panel of the Board of Governors.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following changes to the agenda were noted: Item 4a – Appointment of Chairs for Tribunal Hearing Pools was added and the supporting document, US-2002-3-D9, was

distributed at the meeting. Due to the expected late arrival of Dr. Lightstone, items 6 and 7 were reversed.

R-2002-3-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Thornton, Bayne), it was unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved as revised.*

Dean Esmail said that with the electronic transmission of documents, he had experienced technical difficulties and could not print many documents. Dr. O'Brien said his comments had been noted and would be dealt with.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held March 8, 2002

R-2002-3-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Bédard, Bayne), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of March 8, 2002 be approved as submitted.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4a. Appointment of Chairs for Tribunal Hearing Pools

Dr. Lowy introduced the motion that would add Me Ilinca Ghibu and Me Vincent Lesage to the existing pool of Chairs. Mr. Blais noted that the policy adopted by the Board of Governors allows for the appointment of only four Chairs. It was agreed that the motion would reflect that Board approval to modify the policy was required.

R-2002-3-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Bédard), it was unanimously resolved that, the Tribunal Hearing Chair appointees, as set out in Document US-2002-3-D9, be approved, subject to the Board of Governors amending article 9 of the Policy on the Establishment of Tribunal Hearing Pools to provide for six (6) individuals to serve as non-voting Chairs of the various tribunal panels.*

5. Report from the Academic Programs Committee

5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

R-2002-3-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Vallejo), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, as set out in Documents US-2002-3-D2 to D5, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2002-3-D1.*

5.2 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

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

7. Review of University By-Laws

Due to errors in the original document transmitted electronically to senators, a replacement to US-2002-3-D8 was distributed.

The discussion began with articles 44 to 47. Mr. Blais commented regarding article 44, that the decision to dispense with a meeting of Senate should be the decision of the Steering Committee and not the Rector's alone. Dr. Lowy suggested changing the wording to "...Rector and Vice-Chancellor in consultation with Steering Committee." The Senators agreed with this revised wording.

For article 47, removal of a senator from office, Mr. Blais indicated that he felt the article should be more detailed with the processes, procedures, and criteria required being included. Prof. Tremblay also expressed her concern that article 47 could infringe on the rights and powers of faculty councils to determine and regulate a faculty's representatives. Dr. Lowy commented that he felt the requirement of two-thirds of senators voting for the removal offered the necessary protection. Dean Tomberlin added that the discussion leading up to such a decision would include the reasoning. Some senators also commented that the types of infractions that would lead to removal and the rules a senator should follow should be indicated.

Following Dr. Lightstone's comments that there appeared to be differing visions as to the purpose of by-laws, i.e. a general framework vs. a set of specific rules, Dr. Lowy asked that General Counsel look into the by-laws of other organizations.

There was no discussion on the revisions to articles 48 to 54. It was agreed that the substantive changes would be discussed later in the meeting, time permitting.

6. Proposal to establish a Chief Research Officer

Dr. Lightstone outlined the emerging consensus on some issues:

- that now is the appropriate time to be creating such a position;
- there is no desire to return to the old model of an Associate Vice-Rector-type position;
- that the position should be part of the Rector's Cabinet;
- and finally, that, while there is no unanimity, the majority preference is that the position would report to the Provost with a minority preference of reporting directly to the Rector.

However, there was no consensus on the appropriate title for the position, which is important to external perception. Dr. O'Brien outlined the points for discussion as follows:

- a) do we need the position;
- b) what level should it be at;
- c) should such a person be a member of Senate;
- d) if at the Vice-Rector level, what should the reporting structure be (to Provost or to Rector) and what would be the appropriate title.

There was general consensus on the first three points that we do need the position, it should be at a senior level, and that it should be a voting member of Senate. Following discussion on sub-item d), it was agreed that the position should report to the Provost as Chief Academic Officer. Dean Singer agreed with the scenario but relayed the concern of Arts and Science Faculty Council over what role the Deans would then have.

The debate then moved to the position's title with many views being expressed. Dean Bédard said the title must be that of Vice-Rector, Research due to the position's interaction with the government and other universities. Dean Singer disagreed saying this would

cause confusion internally if the position reports to the Provost. Dean Esmail agreed with Dean Singer's view and continued that we need to preserve the academic structure and safeguard the role of Chairs and Deans in a full academic mission, which includes research.

Dr. Lowy felt that the issues raised deal with a concern over roles and authority. He continued that the role of the new position is to represent Concordia externally, which is very important. Additionally, the internal role would be to promote and facilitate research in a coordinated manner and to assist in grant preparation and in seeking out opportunities.

Dr. Lightstone said that the importance of external relations cannot be overestimated and gave a recent example of the roles played by Dean Bédard and himself in meeting with various representatives of the government and of Genome Québec in that organization's recent funding granted to a University researcher.

Dean Tomberlin expressed his view that he does not see any confusion in having a Vice-Rector, Research reporting to the Provost and that we need a Vice-Rector to give the position the credibility it needs externally.

Dr. Lightstone concluded that there seemed to be agreement on almost all aspects of the position with the exception of the title and that clearly there was no consensus on that issue.

It was decided to continue with items 9, 10, and 11 and return to items 7 and 8 if time permits.

9. Remarks from the Rector

Dr. Lowy congratulated Sabine Friesinger and her slate on their recent victory in the CSU elections. He also extended his congratulations to the Chief Electoral Officer for a well-run election. He continued that at their last meeting, the Board of Governors approved of the construction of the downtown buildings subject to the provincial government granting \$50 million. He concluded that an announcement is expected on Monday, April 8th about that contribution and that he is very optimistic.

10. Items for information

Prof. John Capobianco, Vice-Dean, Research and International Relations, Arts and Science, reported that Dr. Adrian Tsang and his team from the Biology department had been awarded a \$7.5 million grant in environmental genomics from Genome Québec. The department and the University are now leaders in this field of non-human genomics.

Mr. Blais reported that the CSU elections went very well. There will be recounts for some Arts and Science and Fine Arts Council seats.

Prof. Panet-Raymond said that Michael Montanaro from the Department of Contemporary Dance is currently on leave with the Cirque de Soleil. He is working as chief choreographer of their new show.

11. Question period

Mr. Blais queried Prof. Danis about a recent article in *The Concordian* in which Dennis Murphy, Executive Director, Communications said Dean of Students Donald Boisvert was a past-president of the CSU. Mr. Blais indicated that Prof. Murphy is misinformed since

the CSU has only existed for a few years and Dean Boisvert has never been its president. Prof. Danis said he would inform Prof. Murphy.

As the discussion was returning to the By-Laws, Dr. Lowy called for quorum. It was determined that quorum had been lost and the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next meeting of Senate will be May 10, 2002.

Bram Freedman
Acting Secretary of Senate