

UNIVERSITY SENATEMINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF MAY 24, 2002ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Prof. M. Danis; Mr. M. Di Grappa, Mr. L. English; Dr. J. Lightstone; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Dean C. Bédard; Mr. A. Beedassy; Mr. P. Blais; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. M. Gourlay; L. Healey; Prof. V. S. Hoa; Prof. E. Jacobs; Ms. C. Leduc; Mr. A. McAusland; Prof. D. Morin; Mr. A. Munro; Mr. S. Nazzal; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Prof. S. Panet-Raymond; Prof. L. Roberge; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; 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; Prof. C. Bayne; Dr. D. Boisvert; Prof. C. Cupples; Mr. W. Curran; Mr. B. Desgreniers; Prof. A. English; Dean N. Esmail; Ms. S. Friesinger; Dean C. Jackson; Dr. F. Lowy; Mr. R. Luppicini; Ms. M. Mullarkey; Prof. P. Rist; Prof. H. Shulman; Dean M. Singer

ALSO ATTENDING: Me Bram Freedman, Dr. William Knitter (Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science)

Documents associated with the Minutes

US-2002-5-D2	Report from Academic Programs Committee
US-2002-5-D3 to D7	Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and
US-2002-5-D8	Memo regarding an appointment to CCSL
US-2002-5-D9	2002-2003 capital budget
US-2002-5-D10	2001-2002 operating budget projections as of April 2002
US-2002-5-D11	2002-2003 preliminary operating budget
US-2002-2-D9	Steering Committee recommendation regarding the proposed amendments to the University Mission Statement

1. Call to order

Since at 2:15 p.m. quorum had not yet been attained, the Speaker suggested to Senate that Open session begin, with the items not requiring any vote. All Senators present were agreeable with this suggestion.

11. Remarks from the Rector

Dr. Lightstone reported the following on behalf of the Rector:

- Dr. Lowy, together with Deans Singer and Esmail, was presently en route to China to participate in the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Southeast University in Nanking. Attendance at various events, namely in Hong Kong and London, were also on the agenda.
- There was a wonderful turnout at the groundbreaking ceremony which took place on May 13, 2002, for the Engineering and Computer Science and Visual Arts Complex.

Representatives from the municipal, provincial and federal governments attended and spoke favorably about Concordia. The bids for the excavation contract opened on May 10, and actual digging will begin once the formal approval from the City of Montreal will have been received.

- The provincial Government has retroactively disallowed the privatization of the tuition for the international students registered in the Faculty of Arts and Science and the John Molson School of Business, notwithstanding the fact that this has been expressly permitted in writing. The difference between the fees collected from those students and the amount that the Government would have funded per student will be clawed-back.

The new Government motto is that henceforth all international students must be privatized or none of them at all. Dr. Lightstone stated that Concordia and McGill are the most severely affected by this measure. As a result, letters of protest will be sent, especially to contest the retroactivity of this measure. Mr. English will give further details with regards to this matter during his budget presentation.

12. Items for information

Mr. Blais informed Senators that a new CSU Executive will be taking office as of June 1. Thus, since this was his last Senate meeting, he wished farewell and a pleasant summer to all Senators, while outlining that of all the decision-making bodies he had sat on, Senate had been undoubtedly the most interesting and dynamic, and the one he will most miss.

13. Question period

Mr. Blais indicated that when he had tried to access information regarding eConcordia, he had been informed that this was an autonomous entity, requiring the Board's approval for the use of the Concordia name. However, to his knowledge, the aforementioned approval had not yet been received. As a result, he queried Me Freedman who responded that the approval would be sought at the upcoming June Board meeting. Dr. Lightstone added that the policy to approve the use of the Concordia name was adopted after the set-up of eConcordia.

In response to a question by Prof. Hoa, Dr. Lightstone indicated that the proposed increase of graduate students on Senate had been referred back to the Steering Committee, which will address this issue in September.

Since quorum was attained at 2:30 p.m., Senate went into Closed Session. At 2:38 p.m. Open Session resumed.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2002-5-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Blais, Lightstone), it was unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved as submitted.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held May 10, 2002

R-2002-5-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Bédard, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 10, 2002 be approved as submitted.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

Referring to the Minutes of the March 8 Senate meeting, Mr. Blais asked Mr. English for a follow-up on the status of the changes to be brought to student statements. Vice-Rector Di Grappa responded to the question, stating that the necessary modifications to the programming system were currently being made to allow for an itemized statement. He added that an electronic version or paper version would be available. The aforementioned changes should be implemented for the fall semester.

5. Election of the Speaker of Senate

Dr. O'Brien left the room for this item, and Dr. Lightstone took over as Speaker. He confirmed that a call for nominations for a Speaker of Senate was done in accordance with the enabling legislation adopted by Senate in 1996. However, no nominations were received. Steering Steering Committee has nominated the incumbent, Dr. John O'Brien.

R-2002-5-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lightstone, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved:*

*That Dr. John O'Brien be acclaimed Speaker of Senate for the 2002-2003 academic year; and that Senate express its appreciation to Dr. O'Brien for his masterful chairmanship of Senate during the past year as well as his willingness to continue as Speaker.*

Dr. O'Brien re-entered the room, at which time he extended his appreciation to Senate for its vote of confidence and kind words.

6. Report from the Academic Programs Committee

6.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

R-2002-5-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Al-Khalili), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, as set out in Documents US-2002-4-D3 to D7 as revised, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2002-5-D2.*

7. Appointment to the Concordia Council on Student Life

R-2002-5-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lightstone, Bédard), it was unanimously resolved that the appointment of Dr. Fran Shaver to the Concordia Council on Student Life be approved, as set out in Document US-2002-5-D8.*

8. 2002-2003 capital budget

Mr. Di Grappa informed Senate of the major highlights of the 2002-2003 capital budget. He stated that the Ministry of Education had advised the University in January 2001 that the 2001-2002 allocation had been increased to \$6,004,000, while the estimate had been set at \$4,600,000. The amount of \$1,404,000 has been carried over into the 2002-2003 year.

As a result, the 2002-2003 budget, including an estimated base amount of \$5,384,000 (from \$4,600,000) and the aforementioned carry-over, has been set at \$6,788,000, of which 47% is allocated for alterations and renovations, and 53% to equipment. Mr. Di Grappa added that the University has also received \$891,000 under the *Plan d'accélération des*

*investissements publics*, which is a one-time amount allocated for infrastructure renovation projects.

Dr. Lightstone commented that the budget was discussed at SCAPP, which expressed satisfaction that the budget is structured around SCAPP's academic priorities.

R-2002-5-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lightstone, Bédard), it was unanimously resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors that it approve the 2002-2003 Capital Budget, as set out in Document US-2002-5-D9.*

9. 2001-2002 operating budget projections as of April 2002

Chief Financial Office Larry English began his presentation by stating that as of this day he still did not have the final figures from Quebec for the 2001-2002 operating budget. He commented on the overall budget, explaining the variances and answering questions. As of April 2002, a net surplus of \$586,542 is projected.

Mr. English apprised Senate that he had been summoned to a meeting in Trois-Rivières by the Ministry of Education, at which time he was informed of the budgetary changes applicable to 2001-2002, which consist of the following:

- With respect to the new funding formula, only 70% of the monies were received for the increase in enrolments, the other 30% was still pending. However, this 30% will not be paid out. This will result in a loss of funding of \$1.6 million.
- The 2001-2002 conditional grant for Concordia is \$10,890,000. This amount has not yet been received in case Concordia does not meet its objectives under the performance contract.
- As indicated by Dr. Lightstone earlier today, additional fees collected by the University for auto-financed international students are being clawed-back, even though the Government had agreed in writing that this practice was allowed. It is expected that this retroactive measure will adversely affect Concordia by \$2.5 million.
- The Government will no longer fund the indirect research costs of federally funded research agencies. The impact of this measure will result in a grant decrease of \$844,800.

10. 2002-2003 preliminary operating budget

Mr. English reviewed the grant increase assumptions for 2002-2003, including the operating grant and the specific funding. The total grant is projected to amount to \$165,158,137, representing an increase of \$11,329,130 compared to last year's grant. At the aforementioned meeting held in Trois-Rivières, the Government also gave some indication regarding its budgetary orientations for 2002-2003, which Mr. English conveyed as follows:

- Indexation parameters vary from 0.30% to 2.5%. More specifically, salary indexations for teachers are set at 2.5% while those of other personnel at 2.25%.
- There will be no more funding for new information technology endeavors.

- The specific purpose grants must be spent by May 31, 2003. Any unspent amount at that date will be recuperated and redistributed by the Government amongst all universities.

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

Dr. Lightstone mentioned that a suggestion from a member of the Board of Governors, Mr. Jacques St-Laurent, had been brought to the Senate Steering Committee's attention regarding an amendment to the University's mission statement to incorporate the notion of academic freedom.

Following the publication of a request for comments in Concordia's *Thursday Report*, additional comments and proposals were also received from other members of the University community. A discussion ensued, during which Senators agreed that a major revamping of the mission statement would be in order, given that the University has evolved since the text was adopted in 1991. As a result, sufficient time should be put aside in the fall so that Senate may have a thorough debate.

Dean Bédard asked that his comment to replace the words "supported by the best possible" by "and" in the second phrase of the second paragraph, be recorded in the Minutes since he may not be sitting on Senate in the fall.

The Provost indicated that the review of the mission statement would be put on the Steering Committee's September agenda. In the meantime, he suggested that Senate deal with Mr. St-Laurent's suggestion as a lacuna. Everyone was in agreement, and the following motion was voted on.

R-2002-5-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lightstone, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that Senate recommend to the Board of Governors that it amend the University Mission Statement so that the words "by fostering an environment of academic and pedagogical freedom" be added immediately after the word "learning" in the second phrase of the second paragraph of the text of the Mission Statement.*

15. Other business

Given that this meeting would be the last for Dr. Bédard in his capacity of Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Dean Tomberlin proposed the following motion:

R-2002-5-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Tomberlin, Blais), it was unanimously resolved that Senate express its gratitude to Dean Claude Bédard for his hard work, his diligence and his intelligent contributions over the past five years in his role as Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and as a member of Senate.*

On behalf of Senate, the Provost also thanked all Senators who had completed their term of office for their hard work and contribution during the past year.

16. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate will be held on September 13, 2002, at 2 p.m.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Blais and seconded by Dean Bédard.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate