



US-2003-7

UNIVERSITY SENATE

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 2003

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. L. English; Dr. J. Lightstone; Ms. A. Beck; Prof. S. Betton; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. T. Byrnes; Ms. K. Childs; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Prof. M. Doyle; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. J. Grant; Mr. B. Hamideh, Prof. A.M. Hanna; Ms. L. Healey; Prof. V. S. Hoa; Ms. V. Hoang; Prof. E. Jacobs; Mr. K. Khilkevitch; Prof. L. Lequin; Mr. R. Luppisini; Prof. C. MacKenzie; Mr. A. McAusland; Prof. D. Morin; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Ms. E. Pearlman; Ms. N. Pomerleau; Dean E. Sacca; Mr. M. Schulz; Dean M. Singer; Mr. A. Spiro; Prof. R. Swedburg; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. R. Tremblay; Prof. C. Trueman; Mr. L. Tsang; Prof. C. Vallejo; Prof. D. Vivian; Dr. T. Vo-Van

ABSENT: Dr. C. Bertrand; Me Suzanne Birks; Mr. W. Curran; Dean C. Jackson; Prof. D. Peltier-Rivest

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. K. Perry (Acting Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. O'Brien at 2:22 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2003-7-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Sacca, Vo-Van), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved as submitted.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held November 7, 2003

R-2003-7-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lightstone, Hamideh), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 7, 2003 be approved, as submitted.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Presentation on the Student Emergency Food Fund

Dr. O'Brien introduced Ms. Daryl Lynn Ross, a Chaplain with the Concordia Multi-Faith Chaplaincy. Ms. Ross gave some information to Senators in connection with the origins of the fund, which in the 1990's became entirely dedicated to raise funds for students. She outlined the various needs of students and indicated that the fund was not intended for

continuous support but to respond to crisis situations. Ms. Ross said that a letter had been sent last week to the internal community requesting donations and asked Senators to include donations to the Student Emergency Food Fund in their holiday giving.

6. Report from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2003-7-D3)

6.1 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Document US-2003-7-D4)

R-2003-7-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Sacca, Singer), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science set out in Document US-2003-7-D4 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2003-7-D3.*

6.2 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2003-7-D5)

Dr. O'Brien stated that minor curriculum changes are presented for information purposes only.

7. Update on capital budget for 2003-2004

Vice-Rector Di Grappa gave a brief update with respect to the capital budget. Although a final budget for 2002-2003 has not yet been received from the Ministry of Education, preliminary indications are that Concordia will receive \$1 million more than had been allocated in the last year. When presented to Senate, he will recommend that this amount be set aside for renovations in the Hall Building. Mr. Di Grappa expects a budget for 2003-2004 of approximately \$6 million which will be divided among equipment, alterations and renovations.

8. Final results of the 2002-2003 operating budget and preliminary operating budget for 2003-2004 (Documents US-2003-7-D6 and D7)

Chief Financial Officer Larry English made a power point presentation, outlining the final results of the 2002-2003 year end results, detailed in Document US-2003-7-D6, as well as the forecast for the 2003-2004 budget figures, stated in Document US-2003-7-D7.

The amount of the operating grant for 2002-2003 is expected to be \$170 million, which takes into account government clawbacks as well as accrued FTE's (full-time equivalent student). The breakdown of operating revenues versus operating expenses was reviewed, the difference of which amounts to the sum of \$19 million. However, Mr. English explained that further to the subtraction from the aforementioned of \$17,865,160 pertaining to three other budget items (transfer to the Concordia Foundation, contribution to construction soft costs and contribution to the Hall Building renovations), the final operating results surplus for 2002-2003 is \$1,136,340.

With respect to the accumulated deficit, an unexpected amount of \$1,758,000 to cover indirect cost of research as well as interest on the performance contract was received in late October, bringing the accumulated deficit to \$10,028,000.

Mr. English stated that the level of funding per student has declined compared to ten years ago, while the number of FTE's has increased from 16,000 in 1996 to almost 23,000 this year. With respect to this year's forecast, he conveyed that he arrived at the preliminary budget figures by including a revenue increase of \$6,053,942 based on 691 additional FTE's admitted in the summer and in the fall together with expenses in connection with

anticipated salary increases earmarked at \$8 million and operating costs related to the new science complex estimated at \$2,960,000.

Mr. English concluded by apprising Senators that at a presentation made yesterday by the Ministry of Education regarding their 2003-2004 budget orientations, he was informed that the Quebec government will maintain the funding of the costs of indirect research and will inject additional amount to regional universities as well as universities having medical schools. However, the overall education budget will increase by 3.3% while the increase in FTE's is 5.5%. Moreover, although the increase of new students will be funded at 100%, the overall funding will be at 96.5%. The financing for teaching and support has decreased.

9. Deputy Speaker of Senate (Document US-2003-7-D8)

Dr. Lowy conveyed the reasons for which Steering Committee was proposing the creation of the position of Deputy Speaker of Senate and responded to questions in relation thereto.

*R-2003-7-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Lightstone), it was unanimously resolved that the creation of the position of Deputy Speaker of Senate and the modifications to the Enabling Legislation for Speaker of Senate, as outlined in Document US-2003-7-D8, be approved.*

10. Remarks from the Rector

Dr. Lowy said that he would devote the entirety of his remarks to provide the context and background in connection with the creation of a professional position of Vice-Rector, Advancement and Alumni Affairs.

The Rector stated that fundraising is an issue crucial to the welfare and the future of the University. He indicated that it had been necessary to establish a high-level position, on an expeditious basis, due to the competitive fundraising environment and to the fact that other campaigns will be starting in the foreseeable future. Dr. Lowy said that universities the size of Concordia with effective fundraising records and capabilities have a senior administration position of Vice-Rector, Advancement and Alumni Affairs. While both the Advancement unit and the Alumni Relations unit are headed by very capable individuals, enhanced coordination between both units is desirable so that the University achieve its fundraising goals. The Rector indicated that this position, while having the title of Vice-Rector, would be different from the academic Vice-Rector positions.

Dr. Lowy concluded his remarks by apprising Senate that the proposal to create this new position has been presented to and approved by the Executive Committee as well as the Board of Governors at their meetings of November 18, 2003.

11. Items for information

Dean Sacca apprised Senate of an upcoming breakfast which will celebrate the efforts and dedication of volunteer and donors who support graduate students at Concordia.

12. Question period

Numerous questions arose in connection with Dr. Lowy's announcement during his remarks regarding the creation of the position of Vice Rector, Advancement and Alumni Affairs.

In response to queries regarding the cost of creating a new senior level position, the Rector said that the remuneration for this position would be based on the attainment of fundraising goals, most likely involving the payment of a bonus, which is common for this type of position. Allowances in the budget will be made to fund the position.

Several concerns were raised regarding faculty involvement in the selection process. Expectations that a similar proportion of faculty members to that of other search committees were clearly stated together with the importance of the support of faculty and students. Dr. Lowy conveyed that the discussion to create the position began during a planning session of Rector's Cabinet but had not been discussed with the broader University community. He fully agreed that the support of the entire University community is key in ensuring the successful realization of the mandate of this new position.

Dr. Lowy acknowledged that the tradition of the collegial search process must be respected but conveyed that the openness of the process for this type of position presents some challenges, in that it will be difficult to attract top-notch candidates from a non-academic background. Nonetheless, various alternatives will be examined with a view to respecting Concordia's tradition while achieving the objective.

In response to other queries, the Rector indicated that the profile for ideal candidate would be drafted and that he will be presenting the dimensions of the position to Senate and the Board of Governors as soon as possible.

13. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the Open Session.

14. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, January 16, 2004, at 2 p.m.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m., on a motion moved by Dean Singer and seconded by Mr. Hamideh.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate