



US-2004-2

UNIVERSITY SENATE

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2004

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Dr. J. Lightstone; Ms. A. Beck; Me Suzanne Birks; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. T. Byrnes; Ms. K. Childs; Mr. W. Curran; Prof. M. Doyle; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Mr. L. English; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. J. Grant; Mr. B. Hamideh, Ms. L. Healey; Prof. V. S. Hoa; Ms. V. Hoang; Dean C. Jackson; Prof. E. Jacobs; Mr. K. Khilkevitch; Mr. A. McAusland; Prof. D. Morin; Prof. D. Peltier-Rivest; Ms. N. Pomerleau; Prof. C. Ross; Dean E. Sacca; Mr. M. Schulz; Prof. H. Shulman; Dean M. Singer; Mr. A. Spiro; 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; Prof. A.M. Hanna; Mr. R. Luppicini; Prof. C. MacKenzie; Mr. D. O'Driscoll; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Prof. P. Thornton

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. O'Brien at 2:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2004-2-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dutkewych, Morin), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved, as submitted.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held February 6, 2004

R-2004-2-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Hoa, Spiro), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of February 6, 2004 be approved, as submitted.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2004-2-D1)

R-2004-2-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Spiro), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to Senate committees, as outlined in Document US-2004-2-D1 (revised), be approved.*

6. Report from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2004-2-D2)

6.1 Minor graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2004-2-D3)

- 6.2 Minor graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2004-2-D4)
- 6.3 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2004-2-D5)

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

7. Provost's memo regarding CSU annual elections

Dr. Lightstone indicated that in light of Senate's resolutions in previous years on the matter, and after consultation with Rector's Cabinet, he sent a memo on March 8 to all full and part-time faculty members asking them to facilitate student participation in the upcoming CSU general elections, by encouraging faculty to allow, in so far as they deem possible, students to leave class early on March 23, 24 and 25, in order to vote in the election.

Mr. Spiro applauded the gesture, having submitted a proposed motion to Steering Committee which became unnecessary in light of Dr. Lightstone's memo, and urged faculty to keep in mind that it is in the best interest of students and the University as a whole to have a high voter turnout at the elections.

8. Remarks from the Rector

Accompanied by Dr. Lightstone, Prof. Danis, Mr. Di Grappa, Mr. English, Mr. Milton and Ms. Abitbol, Dr. Lowy appeared before the Commission parlementaire on March 17. Responding to a request from the CSU, student representatives Ms. Pomerleau and Mr. Wordsworth were also present and made a brief statement before the Commission. The Rector explained the process followed at the parliamentary hearing and mentioned that the full written brief, which had been submitted to the Commission on February 6, was available on the University website.

Dr. Lowy summarized the content of his presentation, which addressed Concordia's under-funding in relation to its needs as well as to universities in other provinces. A CREPUQ study has identified a gap of \$375 million per year between the Quebec network and universities in the rest of Canada as well as a cumulative shortfall of \$2.9 billion incurred by the Quebec network since the 1994 tuition freeze and the government cuts to universities which began the same year.

Therefore, while recognizing the under-funding as well as the necessity of education in a knowledge-based society, the key question is what is to be done? More importantly, who will carry the burden, in light of the election promises made by the Charest government not to raise tuition fees during its first mandate and the unlikelihood that the government will inject more money into the education system due to the state of its finances?

Dr. Lowy explained how the gap adversely affects Concordia's budget with respect to new faculty hires, support staff, indexation of salaries, construction projects and maintenance of infrastructures. He said that the preferred way of financing the shortfall would be increased funding by the Quebec government through public funds, or by funds obtained via transfer payments to be negotiated with the federal government, similar to the current arrangement which prevails for the health care system.

However, if there is an impossibility or an unwillingness to increase subsidies, then other alternatives must be considered under certain specified conditions. The Rector informed Senate that Concordia supports the CREPUQ proposal that the Quebec government study the British and Australian models whereby tuition increases would be paid by the

government and reimbursed by students once they are earning taxable income. Dr. Lowy indicated that this option is worth exploring, and that more information about this scheme will be obtained at the upcoming AUCC meeting, at which an Australian representative will be present. Dr. Lowy concluded by stating that Concordia was well received by all parties.

9. Items for information

9.1 CSU

Ms. Pomerleau thanked Dr. Lowy for allowing the CSU to participate in the parliamentary hearing and restated the CSU's strong belief in a tuition fee freeze for all students, including out of province and international students. A copy of their presentation is available online on their website.

Reading the text of a motion recently passed by the CSU Council dealing with an ecological paper submission policy, Ms. Hoang stated that this motion will be submitted to the upcoming Senate Steering Committee meeting with a view to include it on the next Senate Agenda and encouraged all Senators to support this initiative.

9.2 School of Graduate Studies

Dean Sacca informed Senate of new graduate recruitment scholarships totaling \$1 million a year to recruit the most highly qualified prospective students to research programs. She conveyed the allocation basis and the distribution formula, resulting in the distribution of awards as follows:

- Arts and Science:	11 scholarships granted, based on 446 graduates
- John Molson School of Business:	3 scholarships granted, based on 100 graduates
- Engineering & Computer Science:	7 scholarships granted, based on 290 graduates
- Fine Arts, including MFA:	3 scholarships granted, based on 132 graduates
- School of Graduate Studies:	1 scholarship granted, based on 39 graduates

Dr. Sacca also informed Senators of two new courses, one in academic oral English, the other in academic written English, to be offered to graduate students as of September 2004 and that the new proposed Master's in Exercise Science is currently being reviewed by CREPUQ, with a site visit expected in the spring or in the early summer.

9.3 Faculty of Arts and Science

Dean Singer apprised Senate that at this morning's Arts and Science Faculty Council meeting, a preliminary discussion was held regarding the future of the Faculty and the replacement of the Dean's position, at which time the normal delay for notice of motion was waived and a motion that the Faculty remain one united Faculty was put to a vote and unanimously passed.

Dean Singer was pleased to report that several alumni were in town to participate in the 25th anniversary reunion of the founding of the Liberal Arts College, held over the weekend. He also congratulated ASFA (Arts and Science Federation of Associations) for its great initiative with respect to the creation of eight new awards and bursaries for academic achievement and outstanding contribution to the Concordia community.

9.4 Provost

Referring to the planning priorities and objectives established by SCAPP in 2001, Dr. Lightstone mentioned that he will update Senate on each Faculty's achievement of those objectives by the end of the semester. He added that APC was looking into issues regarding language proficiency, more specifically regarding the standard language proficiency test and its effectiveness, and that recommendations will be made to Senate with respect to this matter in due course.

9.5 Vice-Provost, Research

Dr. Vo-Van reported on supplemental information regarding the research activity at Concordia and the progress accomplished over the past year. Concordia now has 10 Canada Research Chairs, and overall things are looking good.

10. Question period

No other questions were asked.

11. Other business

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

12. Next meeting

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

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m., on a motion moved by Dean Singer and seconded by Dr. Morin.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate