



UNIVERSITY SENATE

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF APRIL 2, 2004

ATTENDANCE

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. O'Brien at 2:10 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2004-3-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Hoa), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved, as submitted.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held March 19, 2004

R-2004-3-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Spiro, Tremblay), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of March 19, 2004 be approved, as submitted.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

Dr. Lightstone apprised Senate that, further to Ms. Hoang's notice of motion at the March meeting, Steering Committee discussed the appropriateness of Senate adopting a rule regarding the reduction of paper consumption. Before doing so, Steering Committee felt it would be advisable to obtain the input of Faculty Councils on the measures proposed by Ms. Hoang as well as any other measure which could be implemented by Faculty Councils in order to cut down on the unnecessary use of paper. Thus, the Provost will write to the Faculty Councils and their responses will be brought back to Steering Committee for consideration.

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2004-3-D1)

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

6. Report from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2004-3-D2)

6.1 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2004-3-D3)

R-2004-3-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Sacca, Hoa), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science set out in Document US-2004-3-D3 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2004-3-D2.*

6.2 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Documents US-2004-3-D4 to D6)

R-2004-3-5 *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 set out in Documents US-2004-3-D4 to D6 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2004-3-D2.*

6.3 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Document US-2004-3-D7 to D9)

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

7. Renaming of the Department of Computer Science (Document US-2004-3-D10)

R-2004-3-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Hoa, Hanna), it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors that it approve the renaming of the Department of Computer Science to the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, as outlined in Document US-2004-3-D10.*

8. Remarks from the Rector

Pointing out that this was the first Senate meeting since the Board of Governor confirmed Dr. Martin Singer as the next Provost, Dr. Lowy congratulated the latter on that appointment.

The Rector informed Senate that he had recently visited South China, accompanied by Dr. Singer and Prof. Marcel Danis, where they met with a number of prospective students as well as alumni who remain faithful and interested in the University.

Dr. Lowy continued his remarks by expressing his disappointment in the recent Quebec budget, which did not cut university budgets but did provide any new funding. He stated that Quebec has the constitutional responsibility for education, but that the federal government has the money. At a recent AUCC meeting, members agreed that the challenge rests in finding ways for the federal government to transfer that money to provinces. It was felt that the best chance of success for provinces to receive substantial funds would via transfer payments specifically dedicated to educational funding.

9. Items for information

9.1 Future of CEGEPs

Dr. Lightstone reported on CREPUQ's plan to draft a statement on the future of the CEGEP system, in reaction to the government announcement of a public consultation and proposals from the CEGEPs themselves about their expanded role in the post-secondary education system.

9.2 Composition of Senate

Dr. Lightstone apprised Senators that Steering Committee had received requests for increased representation on Senate from the graduate students as well as part-time faculty members, pursuant to which Steering Committee undertook to commission a broad survey of the compositions and structures of Senates across Canada as well as a compilation of the changes brought to Concordia's Senate from 1976 to date. The aforementioned research, completed and compiled by Mr. Cameron Tilson and Ms. Nancy Marrelli, showed that Senate structures across Canada varied considerably, several of which had a larger body with a composition heavily weighted towards faculty members. As for changes in the composition of Concordia's Senate, the research indicates that Senate membership has decreased from about 60 voting members in 1976 to its current 38 voting members.

Dr. Lightstone put three questions to Senators, for which Steering Committee wishes to get a sense of Senate's views before drafting a proposal. For the purposes of this discussion, upon request of Prof. Doyle, speaking privileges were granted to Prof. Maria Peluso, President of CUPFA.

- a) Should the current size of Senate remain the same, and if not, what would be the ideal composition?

While some Senators felt that an increased composition would lead to longer, perhaps unwieldy meetings, and were in favor of a smaller Senate or the status quo, others stated that the University is a growing institution and Senate must adapt accordingly. Those persons did not see how adding a few more members would be problematic.

- b) Should the current proportion of faculty representation versus student representation remain the same?

Faculty and student members alike indicated that the current proportion of faculty members versus student members works well, ensuring a proper equilibrium.

- c) If increased representation of graduate students and part-time faculty members is desirable, should this be done by redistributing the current seats or by allotting additional seats?

While part-time faculty members and graduate students spoke in favor of increased representation of their constituencies, they did not specify how this should be done, with the exception of Mr. Schulz who mentioned that additional graduate seats should not be obtained at the expense of undergraduate seats. Prof. Vivian also mentioned that it was difficult for part-time faculty members to advocate for increased representation given the absence of that constituency on Steering Committee.

9.3 Research grants

Dr. Vo-Van was pleased to report a large increase in Concordia applications for the SSHRC Standard Research grants, totaling 91, of which 38 were accepted for funding, representing a success rate of 42%, which is higher than last year's national success rate. With respect to SSHRC's newly-launched Research/Creation in Fine Arts grants, Concordia did very well with a success rate of 29.4%, in comparison with the national success rate of 17.1%. As for Discovery grants under NSERC, Concordia filed 64 applications, of which 48 were accepted for funding, representing a 75% success rate. Dr. Vo-Van concluded by mentioning the SSHRC was undergoing a transformation process and encouraged faculty and students to participate in the consultation process.

10. Question period

Questions were raised by Ms. Hoang and Ms. Beck regarding the revised Code of Rights and Responsibilities, at which time Senators were informed that the report and recommendation of the committee which reviewed the Code was included on the April 21 Board agenda. Dr. Lowy said that while the Code addresses disciplinary and administrative matters, it could be sent to Senate. Hope was expressed by Prof. Shulman for a university-wide consultation and that the Board not enact a new Code precipitously.

Further to a question by Ms. Pomerleau regarding the use of the De Sève Cinema, Dr. Lightstone confirmed that it will be administered as academic space first for Film Studies courses and second for other courses. While it will be available for other functions, courses will be given first choice for the space.

Mr. Hamideh enquired if Concordia has made a statement regarding Quebec's announcement that it will be reducing student bursaries, to which Dr. Lowy responded that all universities have reacted in astonishment.

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, May 7, 2004, at 2 p.m.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m., on a motion moved by Dean Singer and seconded by Mr. Hamideh.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate