



UNIVERSITY SENATE

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2004

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Dr. M. Singer; Mr. M. Al-Ken; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Ms. A. Beck; Prof. T. Byrnes; Dean J. Chaikelson; Ms. K. Childs; Mr. W. Curran; Prof. M. Doyle; Dean N. Esmail; Ms. M. Etezadbrojerdi; Prof. J. Etezadi; Mr. B. Farrington; Me P. Frégeau; Ms. M. Gruber; Mr. B. Hamideh, Prof. A.M. Hanna; Ms. L. Healey; Dean C. Jackson; Prof. E. Jacobs; Mr. R. Luppicini; Mr. A. McAusland; Prof. D. Morin; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Mr. G. Papadakis; Dean E. Sacca; Mr. C. Schwartz; Prof. H. Shulman; Ms. J. St-Germain; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. R. Tremblay; Prof. C. Trueman; Prof. C. Vallejo; Dr. T. Vo-Van; Dr. R.O. Wills

ABSENT: Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Mr. L. English; Prof. J. Grant; Prof. C. MacKenzie; Prof. C. Ross; Mr. A. Slater; Prof. D. Vivian

1. Call to order

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

The Speaker was pleased to introduce Dr. R.O. Wills who was elected Deputy Speaker by Senate at its last meeting and then asked Senators to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2004-6-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Sacca), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 21, 2004

R-2004-6-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Childs, Beck), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 21, 2004 be approved.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

Dr. O'Brien reported on the status of the changes to the composition of Senate approved in principle last May. He specified that in order to implement those changes, an adjustment to the CUPFA collective agreement is required. In the meantime, the status quo prevails, and Senate will continue with the informal arrangement agreed to last year to the effect that speaking privileges will be granted to additional part-time faculty or graduate student representatives on topics relevant to their respective constituencies.

5. Election of the faculty members of Steering Committee (Document US-2004-6-D1)

Dr. O'Brien reminded Senators that only faculty members vote for faculty representatives on Steering Committee. Any faculty member having sat on Senate in a previous year is eligible for election and is required to be on the ballot. Faculty Senators must vote for two representatives from the Faculty of Arts and Science and one from each other Faculty. The ballots were distributed by Ms. Linda Healey and Ms. Barbara Black, who acted as scrutineers. After one round of voting, Profs. Jamshid Etezadi (John Molson School of Business), Catherine MacKenzie (Fine Arts), Harvey Shulman and Reeta Tremblay (Arts and Science), and Christopher Trueman (Engineering and Computer Science) were elected.

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2004-6-D2)

Dr. O'Brien indicated that a revised copy of Document US-2004-6-D2 had been distributed at the meeting.

R-2004-6-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Sacca), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to committees, as outlined in Document US-2004-6-D2 (revised), be approved.*

7. Reappointment of Tribunal Hearing Chair (Document US-2004-6-D3)

R-2004-6-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Chaikelson), it was unanimously resolved that the reappointment of the Tribunal Hearing Chair, as set out in Document US-2004-6-D3, be approved.*

8. Remarks from the President

Dr. Lowy informed Senate that a planning document, identifying the future directions and challenges of the University, is being prepared and will be presented to Senate a later date. This document will focus on enrolment, hiring, teaching, research, alumni relations, building facilities as well as on funding and budget issues.

The President appealed to student Senators to encourage participation in the October 1 Shuffle, the walk from the SGW Campus to the Loyola Campus in order to raise money for student scholarships. Dr. Lowy conveyed some figures on scholarships. He completed his remarks by apprising Senators of plans to issue retroactive Concordia degrees to graduates of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University.

9. Items for information

Dr. Singer reported on the status of enrolment and research chairs. He added that two new Vice-Provost positions had recently been created and announced the appointment of Dr. Danielle Morin, as Vice-Provost, Academic Programs, who will be responsible for all curriculum and appraisal-related matters, and as such, will chair the Academic Programs Committee. The position of Vice-Provost, International Relations, has yet to be filled. The mandate of this portfolio is to elevate Concordia's international profile.

Dean Sacca reported that a restructuring of the graduate admission process is underway. She also conveyed congratulations to Stephanie Fulton, a PhD graduate from Concordia's Department of Psychology, for being awarded the Prix d'Excellence by l'Académie des Grands Montréalais, an institution of the city of Montreal's Board of Trade that honors distinguished Montrealers.

9.1 Annual report from the Academic Hearing Panel (Document US-2004-6-D4)

In accordance with article 69 of the Code of Conduct (Academic), this report was submitted to Senate for information purposes.

10. Question period

Referring to a report in *La Presse* regarding government deregulation of international student fees, Ms. Childs asked what was being done at Concordia to ensure that students are paying the least possible amount for their education. Dr. Lowy referred to the provincial tuition freeze while indicating the insufficiency in Quebec of compensating mechanisms available in other provinces. The recruiting and processing of international students is much costlier than apparent. Despite higher tuition, the number of international students continues to rise. Dean Tomberlin added that while international tuition fees in JMSB are higher than last year, they are nonetheless the same as they were in 2000/2001.

On the same topic, Ms. Gruber queried whether the emphasis was being placed on obtaining more money from students or from the government. Dr. Lowy responded that the University lobbies the government at every available opportunity, collectively with its sister universities via CREPUQ as well as individually through verbal and written approaches.

Mr. Hamideh expressed concerns with respect to the new policy implemented in the Faculty of Arts and Science, under which the applications of 1180 students in failed standing were rejected for readmission. Dean Chaikelson explained the rationale behind the new policy while inviting Mr. Hamideh to call her office to discuss this matter.

Ms. Beck noted a 30% increase over the last two years in the number of incident reports filed under the Code of Conduct (Academic) and wondered what could explain such a substantial increase. Me Frégeau responded that this is attributable, on the one hand, to increased emphasis on plagiarism by faculty and, on the other hand, to their awareness of the obligation to report suspected incidents of academic misconduct in accordance to the Code.

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, October 22, 2004, at 2 p.m.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate