



UNIVERSITY SENATE

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2004

PRESENT

Voting members: Mr. M. Al-Ken; Ms. A. Beck; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. T. Byrnes; Ms. K. Childs; Prof. M. Doyle; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Ms. M. Etezadbrojerdi; Prof. J. Etezadi; Mr. B. Farrington; Ms. M. Gruber; Mr. B. Hamideh, Prof. A.M. Hanna; Dean C. Jackson; Prof. E. Jacobs; Prof. R. Kilgour; Dr. F. Lowy; Mr. R. Luppisini; Prof. C. MacKenzie; Prof. D. Morin; Mr. G. Papadakis; Prof. C. Ross; Mr. C. Schwartz; Dr. M. Singer; Mr. A. Slater; Ms. J. St-Germain; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. R. Tremblay; Prof. C. Trueman; Prof. C. Vallejo; Prof. D. Vivian; Dr. T. Vo-Van

Non-voting members: Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Me P. Fréreau; Ms. L. Healey; Mr. A. McAusland; Dr. J. W. O'Brien (*Speaker*)

Others: Ms. J. Locke (*Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts of Science*); Dr. T. Fancott (*Acting Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science*)

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Dean J. Chaikelson; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. J. Grant; Dean E. Sacca; Prof. H. Shulman

Non-voting members: Mr. W. Curran; Prof. M. Danis; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Dr. R.O. Wills (*Deputy Speaker*)

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-2004-7-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Beck, Etezadbrojerdi), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 10, 2004

R-2004-7-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Hamideh), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 10, 2004 be approved.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Report from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2004-7-D1)

5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2004-7-D2 to D5)

R-2004-7-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Locke, Singer), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Documents US-2004-7-D2 to D5, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2004-7-D1 (revised).*

5.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Documents US-2004-7-D6 to D12)

R-2004-7-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Fancott, Trueman), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Documents US-2004-7-D6 (revised) to D12 (revised), be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2004-7-D1 (revised).*

5.3 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Documents US-2004-7-D13 to D20)

R-2004-7-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Jackson, Farrington), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Documents US-2004-7-D13 to D20, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2004-7-D1 (revised).*

5.4 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Document US-2004-7-D21)

5.5 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2004-7-D22)

Dr. O'Brien indicated that minor curriculum changes are forwarded to Senate for information purposes only.

6. Name change of the Department of Design Art to the Department of Design and Computation Arts (Document US-2004-7-D23)

R-2004-7-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Jackson, Fancott), it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Fine Arts Faculty Council, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors that is approve the name change of the Department of Design Art to the Department of Design and Computation Arts, as set out in Document US-2004-7-D23 (revised).*

7. Report from SCAPP on the academic planning documents (Documents US-2004-7-D24 to D26)

Dr. Singer informed Senate of a motion recently adopted by SCAPP by which the latter had forwarded the planning documents entitled *Concordia: Canada's University for the 21st Century – A Briefing Paper for the Board of Governors*, and *Moving to the Next Stage: Being Recognized as a Leading Canadian University* (Senate Documents US-2004-7-D25 and D26, respectively), to Senate Steering Committee, with the recommendation they be tabled at Senate for information and forwarded to the four Faculties and the School of Graduate Studies for action.

While the planning documents were table at Senate for information, Dr. Singer opined that Senate ought to have an initial discussion to air certain items. Accordingly, he distributed a document summarizing the eight academic challenges identified in the above-noted planning documents and proceeded to convey and comment on each challenge as follows:

- 1) Concordia needs to review and renew the academic priorities in light of the significant progress that has been made since 1997, the substantially new university that has been created and the commitment to make Concordia one of Canada's leading universities;
- 2) Concordia must substantially increase the number of its on-going full-time professors;
- 3) Concordia needs to review student enrollment targets and strike an appropriate balance between accessibility and academic performance expectations;
- 4) Concordia must ensure that its students receive a superior education which is grounded in fine teaching, coherent academic programs, appropriate advising and adequate academic support services;
- 5) Concordia must reaffirm the central role of research in a 21st Century university, ensuring that each of its newly hired professors must be actively engaged in peer-reviewed - and wherever possible, externally funded - research, or its appropriate creative equivalent, and strongly encouraging an on-going engagement in research and scholarly activity by its more senior professors;
- 6) In light of the increasingly globalized world in which we live, Concordia must strengthen its international profile if it is to be a leading non-medical university with an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research;
- 7) Concordia needs to do much more to communicate, both internally and externally, the academic transformation of Concordia that is presently underway, so that the image of the University is more in line with the realities of the new Concordia as it evolves into one of Canada's leading universities; and
- 8) Given the tremendous growth in the size and complexity of Concordia, a thorough review of the organization of the academic sector should be undertaken.

A discussion ensued, during which a concern was expressed by Ms. Childs that increased focus on research would be detrimental to teaching and hinder accessibility of professors. In response to this concern, several Senators opined that research and teaching balance each other because the pursuit of knowledge ensures that professors stay up-to-date in their areas of expertise, that the best teachers are often the most productive researchers, and that research often results in teaching innovation.

Prof. Vivian pointed out that there is a flat perception of when research occurs. As a part-time faculty member from the Theatre Department, he underlined the importance of the research he conducts outside the University which allows him to innovate in the classroom. Dr. Singer agreed that the role of part-time faculty members varies widely from Faculty to Faculty, and that part-time faculty members are particularly important in the arts and business sectors.

Pursuant to a comment from Ms. Beck that doubling the number of graduate students while not exceeding the 25,000 FTEs cap is a way to decrease the number of undergraduate students, Provost Singer replied that the market place may well do it for us. He stated that the international student component constitutes an important variable in the equation and that fewer than 50% of Concordia enrolments come from the Quebec CEGEP stream. Discussion will be needed to balance accessibility and quality.

8. Committee appointments (Document US-2004-7-D27)

R-2004-7-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Byrnes), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to committees, as outlined in Document US-2004-7-D27 (revised), be approved.*

9. Establishment of a Code of Conduct (Academic) working group (Document US-2004-7-D28)

R-2004-7-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Hamideh), it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Senate Steering Committee, Senate establish a working group to review and recommend revisions to the existing Code of Conduct (Academic), in accordance with the composition set out in Document US-2004-7-D28.*

10. Remarks from the President

Dr. Lowy was pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Kathy Assayag as Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Affairs for a five-year term beginning in January 2005. She will be introduced to Senate at its January 14 meeting.

The President then stated that a flurry of negative publicity had resulted pursuant to the decision not to allow former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak to speak on campus. In August, the administration was advised that Hillel wished to invite Mr. Barak to speak at Concordia. However, because of the violent demonstration which caused the cancellation of the Netanyahu speech in September 2002 and the great deal of negative publicity which followed, a Risk Assessment Group had been established to review each event that can present some risk. Dr. Lowy indicated that based on a recommendation from the aforementioned Group, and in consultation with the Board, the decision had been made not to allow the speech to take place on Concordia's premises for security reasons. However, recognizing that a university is a place of free speech, Concordia offered to co-sponsor the event on an off-campus location and to share the additional cost, but Hillel declined the offer. The University then decided to invite Mr. Barak under its own auspices, but Mr. Barak turned down this invitation.

A discussion ensued, during which the President responded to questions from Senators. He stated that the charges that Concordia stifles free speech are false and the negative publicity is unfair. He pointed out that the decision had received overwhelming support of the internal Concordia community. However, the external criticism to which Concordia is most vulnerable is that of the academic community outside Montreal.

He added that Concordia does not censor the political opinions of speakers and that the decision to allow an event is made strictly based on the result of the assessment of the risk to the students and staff, the campus in general and the University's neighbours. The hypocrisy of the press coverage was voiced by some Senators, in that the cancellation of Jean Charest's recently scheduled speech at the University of Montreal as well as McGill's hosting a controversial Iranian speaker off campus were barely mentioned in the press.

11. Items for information

11.1 Update from the Chair of the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Fine Arts

As Chair of the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Fine Arts, Dr. Singer informed Senate that Committee's entire membership has now been approved by the Board of Governors. The Committee has met twice and has decided to employ the services of a management consulting firm to assist it in its search. While Dean Jackson's term is ending

in May 2005, the latter has accepted to stay on a few extra months, in the event that his successor has not been found by that time.

11.2 Update from the Chair of the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Arts and Science

Dr. Singer, who also chairs the above-cited Committee, apprised Senators that the Board of Governors had approved all but five members of the Committee. It is expected that the names of the four full-time faculty members from the Faculty of Arts and Science and that of the administrative and support staff representative will be known shortly. As a result, the first meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on October 29, 2004.

11.3 Miscellaneous

Other items for information were conveyed by:

- CSU President Brent Farrington, with respect to a pan-Quebec day of action, scheduled for November 10, at which time students will protest against tuition increases and cuts to financial aid. Mr. Farrington urged all members of Senate to attend and stated that he would be requesting academic amnesty from the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs.
- Registrar Linda Healey, who brought to Senate's attention the recently-approved operational changes to undergraduate exam procedures, designed to improve academic integrity. These changes will take effect during the December final exam period for all undergraduate course exams that are scheduled by the Examinations Unit and held in rooms under its jurisdiction.
- Vice-Provost, Research Truong Vo-Van, who invited Senators to read the Annual Research Report which had been forwarded to them. He noted a 150% increase over the past five years in research funding at Concordia. Dr. Vo-Van also apprised Senate of two upcoming mini-colloquia, the first on October 27 regarding inter-disciplinary research between Engineering and Fine Arts, the second on November 2 about genomics research.

12. Question period

With respect to the new exam procedures which provide for pre-assigned seating, Ms. Childs wondered if arrangements will be made to accommodate heavier students or left-handed students, since uncomfortable seats can prevent students from doing well in exams. Ms. Healey replied that this will be looked into by the Registrar's Office.

Referring to the confirmation of originality form which students from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science must sign, Ms. Beck queried whether students can refuse to sign, and if so, what are the consequences of such refusal. Dr. Singer responded that it would be unfair to discuss this issue in the absence of the Dean Esmail and that the legality of the form was being reviewed by the University's General Counsel.

13. Other business

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

14. Next meeting

Dr. O'Brien noted that the next meeting of Senate, originally scheduled to be held on November 12, has been moved a week later to Friday, November 19, 2004, at 2 p.m., in Room SP 265-9.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate