

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, November 11, 2005, immediately after the Closed Session
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Mr. D. Bernans; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. J. Camlot; Mr. R. Daoud; Prof. M. Doyle; Dean N. Esmail; Dean D. Graham; Mr. B. Hamideh, Prof. M. Jamal; Prof. C. Jourdan, Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. W. Lynch; Ms. C. Marshall; Mr. M. Murphy-Perron; Prof. E. Regler; Mr. S. Rosenshein; Prof. C. Ross; Prof. R. Rudin; Dean E. Sacca; Ms. S. Salamoun; Prof. J. Segovia; Mr. M. Shuriye; Dr. M. Singer; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Trueman; Mr. A. Uwihanganye; Dr. T. Vo-Van; Dean C. Wild; Mr. D. Zand; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Mr. W. Curran; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. L. English; Me P. Frégeau; Ms. L. Healey; Mr. A. McAusland; Dr. J. W. O'Brien (*Speaker*)

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. I. Bachmann; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Prof. E. Jacobs; Prof. R. Kilgour; Ms. J. Lewy; Mr. J. Moschella; Prof. H. Shulman

Non-voting members: Mr. M. Di Grappa; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Mr. K. Pruden

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. O'Brien at 2:17 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2005-7-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Daoud, Sacca), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 9, 2005

R-2005-7-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Marshall, Rosenshein), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 9, 2005 be approved.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

As a follow up on the preliminary statistics given regarding the Fall enrolments at the September meeting, Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, Dr. Martin Singer was pleased to report that Concordia was experiencing the largest Fall enrolment in its history, with just below 9500 undergraduate FTE and just below 1,200 graduate FTE. He thanked Roger Côté, Executive Director of Enrolment and Student Services, as well as the Deans and Department Chairs for achieving enrolment goals without compromising the quality of students being admitted. Dr. Singer said that undergraduate applications for admission for Winter are lower than last year, partly because of the introduction of an online application fee. He will report more fully at the January meeting.

Pursuant to a question posed by Mr. Rosenshein at the last meeting regarding the status of turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection tool, Mr. McAusland indicated that the University had entertained the idea of using this tool a few years ago and was about to run a test. However, at the time, Provost Jack Lightstone favoured an approach of prevention rather than detection. As a result, the test was halted and emphasis was placed on prevention, an initiative in which student advocates have been actively involved. A report will be made to the Provost regarding the results of this endeavour.

5. Committee appointments

5.1 Ratification (Document US-2005-7-D3)

R-2005-7-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Murphy-Perron), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to committees approved by Senate Steering Committee at its meeting of October 3, 2005, as outlined in Document US-2005-7-D3, be ratified by Senate.*

5.2 Approval (Document US-2005-7-D4)

R-2005-7-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Sacca), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to committees, as outlined in Document US-2005-7-D4, be approved.*

6. Report from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2005-7-D5)

6.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2005-7-D6 to D13)

R-2005-7-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Jourdan), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Documents US-2005-7-D6 to D13, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2005-7-D5.*

6.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Documents US-2005-7-D14 and D15)

R-2005-7-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lynch, Trueman), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Documents US-2005-7-D14 and D15, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2005-7-D5.*

6.3 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Documents US-2005-7-D16 and D17)

R-2005-7-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Wild, Sacca), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Documents US-2005-7-D16 and D17, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2005-7-D5.*

6.4 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business (Document US-2005-7-D18)

Referring to a proposal regarding the increase in class size in JMSB, Mr. Bernans wondered if lowering the GPA requirement from 3.5 to 3.3 for the Honours in Finance would impact class size. Dean Tomberlin replied that, as detailed in the document, the current criteria for admission are too restrictive. He pointed out that this issue was unrelated to the preliminary discussions about increasing class size in JMSB.

R-2005-7-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Tomberlin, Jamal), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, set out in Document US-2005-7-D18, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2005-7-D5.*

6.5 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2005-7-D19 and D20)

6.6 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2005-7-D21)

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

With respect to Document US-2005-7-D19, Prof. Ross commented that the additional calendar entry regarding the new Honours admission regulation was unclear. Dean Graham agreed to deal with this as a friendly amendment and asked Prof. Ross to communicate directly with Prof. Locke.

6.7 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2005-7-D22 to D24)

R-2005-7-13 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Sacca, Graham), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in*

Documents US-2005-7-D22 to D24, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2005-7-D5.

6.8 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
(Documents US-2005-7-D25 to D29)

R-2005-7-14 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Sacca, Esmail), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Documents US-2005-7-D25 to D29, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2005-7-D5.*

6.9 Major graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business (Documents US-2005-7-D30 and D31)

R-2005-7-15 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Sacca, Tomberlin), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, set out in Documents US-2005-7-D30 and D31, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2005-7-D5.*

7. Remarks from the President

Dr. Lajeunesse mentioned that he had learned that the differences between the Board and Senate in connection with the composition of Senate are more substantive than he had reported at the September meeting. Nonetheless, he reassured Senators that he is working on finding a solution to reconcile both positions.

The President apprised Senate that he continues to learn about Concordia. In this vein, he has visited several of the University's units and departments and anticipates completing all visits by the end of this academic year. He also congratulated Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Relations, Ms. Kathy Assayag, who has met with several alumni groups and contacted 4,000 alumni through the office over the past months.

Dr. Lajeunesse informed Senators that he had taken time to gain understanding of the 2004/2005 budget and of his intention to present a budget for the 2005/2006 at the December Board meeting, which will be tied to the priorities set out in the Academic Plan. He concluded his remarks by indicating his sentiment that today's location was an improvement over the last meeting's location and invited Senators to convey their comments.

8. Items for information

Dean Sacca recognized Catherine Leclerc, a Concordia graduate, who was awarded the 2005 Prix d'Excellence from the Board of Trade for her Ph.D. dissertation in the category of social sciences and humanities. Dean Sacca also updated Senate on the current audit being conducted in the School of Graduate Studies regarding the decentralization of admissions.

Dean Esmail was proud to announce that the Concordia team had represented Canada at the recent Solar Decathlon challenge held in Washington, D.C. The team brought home two major awards from the competition.

Dr. Vo-Van updated Senate on the status of the Canada Research Chairs, mentioning that a new Tier II appointment in History as well as a Tier I appointment in Exercise Science brought the total number of filled Canada Research Chairs to 21. He also gave the details on Concordia's increased research funding for the 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 academic years.

Mr. Rosenshein was pleased to inform Senate that the CSU had held its annual by-election, further to which all questions posed on ballot had passed.

9. Question period

In response to a query from Mr. Daoud, Dean Tomberlin indicated that the possibility of increasing class size of some core courses in JMSB was being discussed, but no decision had yet been made. He pointed out that students will have their say in the matter since there is student representation on the department councils. Mr. Bernans asked if this discussion will be brought to Senate, to which Dean Tomberlin responded that while this issue is not in Senate's purview, questions could be asked at Senate meetings.

Prof. Ross posited that perhaps the method of forwarding Senate documentation electronically was hindering debate, thereby considerably shortening the length of Senate meetings. Dr. O'Brien replied that the recent meetings have been brief and less spirited and that this matter will be brought to Steering Committee's attention.

Mr. Rosenshein asked Dr. Lajeunesse to clarify some recent statements in the printed media regarding his position on tuition fee increase. The President restated that Concordia is severely under funded compared to universities in Ontario and the rest of Canada, namely between \$180 million and \$200 million. If the government cannot make up the shortfall in university funding, it becomes necessary to look at tuition fees.

As a follow up question from the last meeting regarding the high library fines, Mr. Bernans mentioned the student who sat on last year's Library Committee had not had the occasion to comment because he was unaware of when meetings were being held. Thus, Mr. Bernans wondered if the proposal about library fines could be brought back to allow for student input. Mr. Curran, Director of Libraries, informed Mr. Bernans that all such changes are approved by the President's Cabinet. The issue of the changes in library fines had not been discussed during the last academic year but rather in the preceding year at the Library Committee meeting of May 2004. Those changes were scheduled to be discussed and approved by the President's Cabinet at its meeting held in June 2004 but this matter was deferred to September 2004 meeting. Since the academic year had already begun and all library handouts had been printed, the implementation of the changes went into effect at the end of the summer session in 2005.

10. Other business

Dr. Singer conveyed that veteran Senate member, Prof. Harvey Shulman, was currently hospitalized and would not be attending Senate in the foreseeable future.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to held on Friday, December 2, 2005, at 2 p.m., at a location to be confirmed in the official notice of meeting.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate