

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, February 3, 2006, 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; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Dean N. Esmail; Dean D. Graham; Mr. B. Hamideh, Prof. M. Jamal; Prof. C. Jourdan, Prof. R. Kilgour; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Ms. J. Lewy; Prof. W. Lynch; Mr. J. Moschella; Mr. M. Murphy-Perron; Prof. E. Regler; Mr. S. Rosenshein; Prof. C. Ross; 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. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Me P. Fréreau; Ms. L. Healey; Mr. A. McAusland; Dr. J. W. O'Brien (*Speaker*)

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. I. Bachmann; Prof. E. Jacobs; Ms. C. Marshall; Prof. R. Rudin

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. O'Brien at 2:22 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2006-1-4 *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 November 11, 2005

R-2006-1-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Rosenshein, Segovia), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 11, 2005 be approved, subject to a correction to the attendance.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

In response to a question, Senators were apprised of Steering Committee's decision to maintain the practice of transmitting Senate notices and documentation electronically, as the mode of transmission was not seen as a factor contributing to a lack of debate at some Senate meetings. However, to address printing problems that some Senators have experienced, a sentence has been added in the notice indicating that Senators can contact the Secretary of Senate to make arrangements to obtain a paper copy of the documents.

Dr. Singer apprised Senators that, sadly, Prof. Harvey Shulman had passed away in December, stating that the latter will be dearly missed. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, February 9.

Further to a query, Dr. Singer noted that, despite lower applications due to the introduction of an online application fee, the University has the highest enrolment in its history, with about 24,000 FTEs, representing an increase of 2.81% over last year. However, contrary to the strategic objectives, the proportion of undergraduate FTEs has increased more rapidly than the graduate FTEs compared to last year. This is one of the reasons that led to the creation of the position of Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies. While applications have fallen, the main concern rests with the decrease in applications of international students, which is a source of concern to all Canadian universities. One of the factors contributing to this situation is the length of the visa approval process. It is hoped that this issue will be addressed via the conclusion of umbrella agreements with certain countries and universities in order to facilitate the process.

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2006-1-D2)

R-2006-1-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Vo-Van), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to committees, as outlined in Document US-2006-1-D2, be approved.

6. Proposal for a Concordia Institute for Cultural and Social Diversity (Document US-2006-1-D3)

Dr. O'Brien invited Dr. Jack Lightstone to speak to this agenda item. Dr. Lightstone indicated that the proposal has yet to be vetted by the relevant Faculty Councils and was being presented to Senate today for information purposes. He outlined the information contained in the document regarding the theme, founding membership, dual mandate, governance, funding and unique character of the Institute.

More specifically, the proposal to establish a Concordia Institute for Cultural and Social Diversity was written in consultation with some 50 faculty members from the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Faculty of Fine Arts and the John Molson School of Business. While research lies at the core of the Institute, it will also have an applied/outreach mission to capitalize on the many disciplines represented by the founding faculty members.

Dr. Lightstone continued his presentation by explaining that the theme had been chosen because social diversity is one of the most compelling characteristics of the modern world and presents some of its most interesting and crucial challenges. Understanding the

dynamics of social diversity, on the scientific side, and from that understanding learning to deal with it better, on the applied side, are among the most important undertakings nationally and internationally. However, to fully appreciate the dynamics and challenges of contemporary social diversity one must understand the historical antecedents of cultural and social issues.

With respect to governance, the Institute will be an academic entity, accountable to the academic sector's governing bodies. Initially, it will report to those bodies through a steering committee composed of the Deans of the Faculties from which participating faculty come and chaired by the Provost. Dr. Lightstone mentioned that the Institute will eventually be open to other faculty members, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, from Concordia and from other universities, insofar as their expertise or research is germane to the Institute's mandate. In conclusion, Dr. Lightstone indicated that he was looking forward to input from three Faculty Councils with a view to have the proposal approved at the March Senate meeting. A discussion ensued, during which Senators commented on the proposal and Dr. Lightstone replied to questions.

7. Presentation regarding the 2004/2005 final results and 2005/2006 operating budget (Documents US-2006-1-D4 and D5)

Mr. English presented the final financial results for the 2004/2005 fiscal year as well as the projected budget for the 2005/2006 fiscal year. He began his presentation by reviewing Concordia's FTE figures and enrolments for 2004 versus 2005 compared to the other Quebec universities, as well as the evolution of the funded FTEs from 1994 to the current academic year.

In connection with the year 2004/2005 year end results, Mr. English conveyed the revenue variances which had originally contributed to an anticipated deficit of \$2.57 million. However, in December 2005, a comprehensive review of the impact of proposed and signed collective agreements revealed that salary accruals for the last three years were off by about \$6.9 million. Accordingly, adjustments were brought to the 2004/2005 financial statements, resulting in a revised deficit of \$9.48 million.

Mr. English continued his presentation by giving an overview of the 2005/2006 budget, conveying the revised assumptions regarding the number of funded FTEs, funding rates and other grant components such as building and grounds and rentals. He informed Senate that preliminary projections suggest that an overage in expenses will result in an anticipated deficit of \$4.23 million in the operating budget for the 2005/2006 fiscal year.

During the discussion that followed the presentation, Mr. English replied to questions from Senators. Prof. Segovia opined that the budget should be presented in a more efficient and effective way, in order to be able to identify the sources leading to the deficit, and suggested that in the future segment reporting and direct cost method be used in preparing the budget. He also conveyed percentages comparing actual expenses in 2004-2005 with their respective budgeted amounts for 2005-2006, which showed significant increases to the budgets of the administrative sector but decreases to the budgets of the academic sector. In response to the foregoing comments, Dr. Singer indicated that budget adjustments need to be seen in context. Academic budgets will be adjusted in June to reflect Winter 2006 increases in

student enrolments and this new money has been ear-marked to hire additional tenure-track professors in accordance to our academic plan. As well, percentage increases may be misleading depending on the size of the original budget.

In response to a comment about the usefulness of the presentation at this point since the budget had been adopted by the Board, Mr. English explained that the budget had been adopted at the January Board meeting after much delay. However, for the current year, he is targeting the May 18 Board meeting and could present the budget to Senate at its meeting of May 5.

8. Remarks from the President

Dr. Lajeunesse congratulated Dean Tomberlin and the JMSB team for winning first prize in the 25th Annual John Molson International Case Competition, one of the most respected international case competitions, attracting participants from over 30 universities across the world. He noted that this fundraising and press coverage event was very well coordinated through the Communications and Advancement sectors.

8.1 Update on the search for the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies

Dr. Lajeunesse specified that the membership of the committee is almost complete. The committee should begin meeting shortly. The profile of the position will be drafted and sent to the relevant constituencies, including Senate, in due course. The President reiterated his wish that the appointee be in place by June 1.

9. Items for information

9.1 Update on the search for the Dean of the John Molson School of Business

Dr. Singer apprised Senate that the majority of members have been appointed to the committee. The committee will commence meeting after reading week. Dr. Singer indicated that the committee will hire the services of a consultant to assist in the search.

9.2 Printing of University Calendars

Dr. O'Brien mentioned that this matter was being reported to Senate further to a question raised at Steering Committee regarding the legal requirement to produce printed versions of the University calendars.

Me Frégeau conveyed the absence of any statutory requirement to provide printed regulations or a written version of the contract between the student and the University. However, while verbal contracts are binding, the easiest way to prove both their existence and the expressed intent is to have proof in writing. Moreover, traditionally university calendars do not necessarily contain all of the obligations and duties. He added that there is a line of jurisprudence that states that for certain matters, the student and the university are bound by the content of the calendar as it is in the first year that the student is accepted in a given program.

Consequently, he opined that there is no legal obligation to produce a written version of the calendars but that it would be prudent to catalogue the content of each calendar at the beginning of each semester for future reference.

9.3 Other

Dean Sacca reported that the Council of the School of Graduate Studies had approved a new standard for admission to graduate programs with respect to English language testing. She apprised Senators of an upcoming publicity campaign to raise scholarships for graduate students.

Mr. Rosenshein mentioned that the new CSU offices had opened on the 7th floor and that the new cafeteria and lounge space were well received.

Dr. Vo-Van updated Senators on the status of applications made to the various granting agencies.

Mr. Moschella spoke of recent GSA projects, including orientation sessions with the library and the new student program, a workshop series, etc. He was also pleased to report that the GSA had achieved a balanced budget.

10. Question period

Referring to a number of announcements which would have an impact on University governance, Dr. Ross said there was no information regarding the newly-created position of Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies and stated concerns that the job profile would not be discussed at Senate. Dr. Lajeunesse replied that the profile will be drafted by the Search Committee and vetted by the appropriate constituencies, including Senate, in due course.

In relation to comments made by the President during his Installation speech, Dr. Ross asked whether changes to the Continuing Education program would be discussed at Senate. Dr. Lajeunesse answered that the collegial process will be followed, and therefore Senate will be consulted.

With respect to the proposal to create a distinction between academic and non-academic senior administrative appointments, while opining that there appears to be little or no discussion and that Senate's input is essential into this matter, Dr. Ross wondered if Senate will have the opportunity to discuss these changes. The President said that faculty members were represented on the working group and that Dr. Ross himself had met with the Chair of the working group to express his views. A notice of motion regarding this item has been forwarded to Governors for discussion at the March Board meeting. In response to a question of clarification from Dr. Ross, Dr. Lajeunesse added that he had not yet been appointed to Concordia when the Board decided to establish the working group to review the search procedures and thus suggested that Dr. Ross raise this issue with the Chair of the Board.

Mr. Hamideh, in his capacity as student advocate, related problems he was encountering with professors submitting incorrect notations of F/DNW and sought advice on how to ensure that professors follow the academic regulations set out in the calendar by submitting the proper notation when students present a medical note to apply for a deferred exam. Dr. Singer replied that he would ask Vice-Provost Morin to meet with the Vice-Deans to find out the extent of the problem and would report her findings under "Business arising" at the next meeting.

Concerns regarding the cancellation of three Senate meetings and the process by which it was done were voiced by Messrs. Shuriye and Rosenshein.

11. Other business

Underlining how deeply he had appreciated the Senate experience, Mr. Uwihanganye said that he was resigning from Senate so that he can focus his efforts on international cooperation endeavours.

12. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to held on Friday, March 17, 2006, at 2 p.m., Room EV 2.260, on the SGW Campus.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate