

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, May 5, 2006, at 2 p.m.
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Prof. J. Camlot; Mr. R. Daoud; Prof. M. Doyle; Prof. O. Dyens; Dean D. Graham; Mr. B. Hamideh, Prof. E. Jacobs; Prof. M. Jamal; Prof. R. Kilgour; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. W. Lynch; Mr. J. Moschella; Mr. M. Murphy-Perron; Prof. E. Regler; Mr. S. Rosenshein; Prof. C. Ross; Prof. R. Rudin; Mr. M. Shuriye; Dr. M. Singer; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Trueman; Dr. T. Vo-Van; Dean C. Wild; Mr. D. Zand

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

Others: Dr. Ted Stathopoulos, *Acting Dean, School of Graduate Studies*, Mr. Terry Too, *Acting Registrar*

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Prof. I. Bachmann; Mr. D. Bernans; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. C. Jourdan; Ms. J. Lewy; Ms. C. Marshall; Dean E. Sacca; Ms. S. Salamoun; Prof. J. Segovia; Ms. L. White; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Mr. W. Curran; Ms. L. Healey; Mr. K. Pruden

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-2006-4-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Rosenshein, Graham), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 7, 2006

R-2006-4-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Moschella, Tomberlin), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 7, 2006 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-2006-4-D1)

5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Document US-2006-4-D2)

R-2006-4-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Kilgour), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Document US-2006-4-D2, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2006-4-D1.*

5.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Documents US-2006-4-D3 and D4)

R-2006-4-4 *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, outlined in Documents US-2006-4-D3 and D4, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2006-4-D1.*

5.3 Major graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business (Document US-2006-4-D5)

R-2006-4-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Tomberlin), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Documents US-2006-4-D5, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2006-4-D1.*

6. Presentation of preliminary operating budget for the 2006/2007 academic year (Documents US-2006-4-D6 to D8)

Dr. Lajeunesse prefaced Mr. English's presentation by referring to the budget for the upcoming academic year as difficult because of an anticipated \$9.5 million deficit but realistic, in that it places the priority on the need to implement the major components of the academic plan, such as increase in the library acquisition budget, recruitment of full-time professors, augmentation of research chairs, etc. However, this deficit could be less, in the event that a decision is made to defer certain non-academic expenses, such as the repayment of the pension solvency deficit, to the 2007/2008 budget. The President expects that the deficit will be eliminated within two years, provided that the federal government addresses the fiscal imbalance, as it has recently promised, and that the provincial government reinvests in higher education to compensate for the \$350 million shortfall in the Quebec network.

Referring to document D6, Mr. English informed Senate that a \$4.3 million deficit was projected for the current year. He conveyed the elements contributing to the variance between the March budget presentation and today's figure. Document D7 outlines the budget process, including all the assumptions used in preparing the budget and which were discussed by the President's Executive Group, and Document D8 is the 2006/2007 operating budget itself which projects a \$9.5 million deficit.

Mr. English said that over the 10 years, Concordia benefited from a dramatic increase in student clientele, experiencing a 40% increase in enrolment. The last two years have seen a decline in the rate of FTE growth. With a stable student base, Concordia is now poised to build on its strengths and focus on the attainment of its strategic academic objectives, and in particular, on hiring the faculty members needed to compensate for the increase in student enrolment. Mr. English gave a summary of the elements that were taken into account in establishing the budget which are detailed on page 9 of Document D7, being salary increases in accordance with signed collective agreements, increase in benefit costs and repayment of the pension solvency deficit, interest cost, reserve for full-time faculty hires, increase in the library acquisition budget, reserve for other academic initiatives and net budgetary cuts, resulting in a \$13.1 million increase in expenses. He added that pages 9, 10 and 11 outline the budget allocation per sector, and pages 12 to 23 are an expansion of each sector.

Mr. English conveyed the assumptions on which a pro-forma budget outlook for a 2007/2008 deficit of \$358,000 and a 2008/2009 surplus of \$10.3 million was established. He concluded his presentation by situating Concordia in relation to the accumulated results of the other Quebec universities, which demonstrates that Concordia's overall financial situation is healthier than theirs. Pursuant to his presentation, a discussion ensued during which Mr. English, Dr. Singer and Dr. Lajeunesse responded to questions and comments.

7. Remarks from the President

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

Dr. Lajeunesse apprised Senate that advertisements had been published in several newspapers and academic journals. The Search Committee will be meeting next week to review candidates.

7.2 Academic Plan - Progress report

At the invitation of the President, Dr. Singer apprised Senate that, in accordance with the challenges identified in the academic plan, hiring of full-time tenure track faculty members remains the number one priority. He spoke of recent student recruitment efforts and reiterated the determination to strengthen and improve library facilities, emphasizing that the budget perspective reflects the commitment to achieve the goals set out in the academic plan.

8. Items for information

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

Dr. Singer reported that the Search Committee has met several times. Advertisements have been widely distributed, locally, nationally and internationally, in a number of newspapers and academic journals and have been posted on several websites.

8.2 Other

Dr. Stathopoulos was pleased to announce that a Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship for 2006/2007 has been offered to a Concordia candidate, who was recommended by the School of Graduate Studies and nominated by Dr. Lajeunesse. The Trudeau Foundation will make its formal announcement in June, at which time the candidate's name will be announced.

9. Question period

Further to a question by Mr. Shuriye with respect to the approach taken to facilitate distance learning, Dr. Singer indicated that the School of General Studies is intended to repatriate distance learning and empower the Faculties to develop web-based courses aimed at new as well as currently-enrolled students, whether local, national or international. Dr. Lajeunesse added that the administration was currently looking into capitalizing on the positive aspects of eConcordia and determining a timeframe to integrate its operations into the School of General Studies.

Referring to the Webster Library's shortage of space, Mr. Moschella enquired about the request submitted by the University Library Committee to have some space on the 5th floor of the Library Building earmarked for the use of the library. Dr. Singer responded that there were some configuration concerns, but that the request was under consideration.

In response to a query by Mr. Murphy-Perron, Dr. Lajeunesse informed Senate that a Concordia-run gym is scheduled to open in the EV Building in the Fall.

Prof. Ross asked the President if the presentation on the performance indicators that was done at the April Board meeting will be brought to Senate for discussion. Dr. Lajeunesse replied that the work is being done to develop the indicators to measure if we are in line with the goals in our academic plan. In this vein, Mr. Brad Tucker will be making a presentation at the next Board meeting, and a presentation may be done at Senate at some point. When asked by Dr. Ross if Senate would have any input on the choice of indicators, the President said that a document will be widely distributed but that the setting of Senate agendas is within the purview of Steering Committee. Dr. Singer specified that more than half of the forty indicators stem from the academic plan, which was unanimously approved by Senate, and that an annual progress report will be produced.

10. Other business

There was no other business to report.

11. Next meeting

Dr. O'Brien pointed out that the next meeting will be held on **Monday, May 29, 2006, at 2 p.m.** Room EV 2.260, on the SGW Campus.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate