

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, September 15, 2006, at 2 p.m.
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Mr. P. Blais; Ms. V. Braide; Ms. L. Del Vecchio; Prof. O. Dyens; Mr. Y. El Hamwi; Dean D. Graham; Prof. A. Hamalian; Ms. A. Henry; Prof. M. Jamal; Prof. R. Kilgour; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. N. Nixon; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. E. Regler; Mr. S. Rosenshein; Prof. C. Ross; Dean E. Saccà; Mr. P. Schiefke; Prof. F. Shaver; Dr. M. Singer; Prof. P. Stoett; Prof. C. Trueman; Dean C. Wild

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*); Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. R. Daoud; Dean N. Esmail; Mr. K. Juma; Ms. C. Reimer; Prof. R. Rudin; Prof. J. Segovia; Ms. E. Silver; Dean J. Tomberlin; Dr. T. Vo-Van; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. K. Pruden

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. O'Brien at 2:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2006-7-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Rosenshein, Peluso), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 29, 2006

R-2006-7-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Stoett), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 29, 2006 be approved.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

Dr. O'Brien informed Senate that Mr. Di Grappa will follow up on the library space and the copy centre issues at the October meeting, the latter having sent his regrets in order to attend the funeral of Tom Swift.

With respect to the questions regarding the Finance Committee, the Speaker apprised Senate that this committee had originally been established as an ad hoc committee and thus has had different practices than other Senate committees. Meetings are convened by the Vice-President, Finance. The committee's composition provides for faculty members from each Faculty, and there is no specific requirement that an accountant sit on the committee. Dr. O'Brien added that the current representative from JMSB is from the Finance Department.

5. Election of the faculty members of the Steering Committee (Document US-2006-7-D1)

Dr. O'Brien conveyed that the terms of reference of Senate Steering Committee provide for one faculty member from each of the John Molson School of Business (JMSB), the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS) and the Faculty of Fine Arts (FA) and two from the Faculty of Arts and Science (A&S). He gave the instructions in relation to the voting and to the eligibility requirements to sit on Steering Committee.

The following faculty members were elected by acclamation since they were the only eligible members from their Faculty not teaching at the usual time of Steering Committee meetings: Juan Segovia (JMSB) and Erwin Regler (FA). Christopher Trueman was elected as the ENCS representative after the first round of ballots, while Arpi Hamalian and Robert Kilgour were elected as the A&S representatives after the third round of ballots.

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2006-7-D2)

R-2006-7-3 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lajeunesse, Schiefke), it was unanimously resolved that the committee appointments be approved, as detailed in Document US-2006-7-D2.

7. Remarks from the President

Dr. Lajeunesse praised the remarkable leadership displayed by students and employees over the last two days, following the shooting rampage at Dawson College. Concordia received very positive press coverage. The President congratulated all those who participated in the rapid and comprehensive response. He opined that this was an historic moment which demonstrates what can be accomplished when people pull together, adding that the Ministry of Education (MELS) has taken note of these well coordinated actions.

Dr. Lajeunesse conveyed to Senators that Dr. Louise Dandurand, whose appointment was approved by the Board of Governors on July 10, 2006, will be commencing her term as Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies on November 1, 2006. He underlined her stellar career and deep knowledge of research and funding agencies.

Remarking on the importance of transparency and accountability, the President encouraged all Senators to read his message posted on the website, entitled "*Concordia is on the move!*"

which covers the accomplishments of the past year as well as the planning and projects for the upcoming year.

8. Items for information

8.1 Annual report from the Academic Hearing Panel (Document US-2006-7-D3)

Dr. O'Brien noted that, in accordance to article 69 of the Code of Conduct (Academic), this report is filed for information purposes.

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

Dr. Singer was pleased to report an excellent pool of candidates. The next meeting of the committee will be held in two weeks to finalize the short list. Open meetings as well as other public presentations are planned for October. It is expected that Board approval for the position will be sought by the end of the Fall.

8.3 Update on the search for a Dean of the School of "General Studies"

Dr. Singer reported that, further to the Board of Governors authorizing the establishment of the search committee at its June meeting, the ratification of the committee's membership is presently underway. Calls for tender for external consultants will be placed, and the committee should convene its first meeting sometime in October.

8.4 Other

Dr. Lajeunesse apprised Senate that the Board of Governors will be approving the establishment of the Advisory Search Committee for a Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs as well as the appointment of its members at next week's meeting.

Mr. Blais mentioned that Mr. Bruce Carlini, a Concordia graduate, is a finalist in the category "Personality Avenir" at the upcoming Forces Avenir Gala which will take place in Quebec City in October. Forces Avenir is an organization which recognizes and promotes student commitment.

Reporting on behalf of CSU President Khaleed Juma, Mr. Rosenshein spoke of the various orientation activities (concert, BBQ, etc.), mentioning that events were cancelled after the Dawson shooting out of respect for the students and staff and thanking everyone who helped out in the Concordia relief effort that occurred immediately following news of the shooting.

9. Question period

At the request of Prof. Peluso, speaking privileges were granted to Ms. Brenda Grant, President of CUCEPTFU. Further to the latter's intervention expressing concerns with respect to the composition of the Advisory Search Committee for a School of "General Studies", which Continuing Education will fall under, Dr. Lajeunesse informed Senate that he had met with Ms. Grant this week and had conveyed to her that ways would be looked at in order to ensure that Continuing Education's input would be sought and considered.

A series of questions ensued regarding the School of "General Studies", posed by Prof. Ross, Prof. Regler and Prof. Peluso regarding the inclusion of eConcordia in this entity and if the document adopted by Senate had been changed. More specifically, it was stated that the academic community's understanding of eConcordia's inclusion as part of the School was a key element for its endorsement of the creation of the School. Those Senators voiced concern and confusion and wanted a confirmation as to whether or not eConcordia would be housed in the School of "General Studies". Prof. Hamalian posed a question regarding the mandate, timeline and composition of the transition committee.

Dr. Singer confirmed that no modification had been brought to the document, which anticipated the creation of two committees, the first being a search committee for the Dean, and the second being a transition committee which will deal with the various implementation issues and stages. This committee will be chaired by the Provost or one the Vice-Provosts and should be established towards the end of the month.

As for eConcordia, the Provost reiterated what was indicated in the document adopted by Senate. The School will integrate credit and non-credit distance education courses, under the direction of the School's division of web-based distance education, including those currently offered by eConcordia. It was confirmed that eConcordia is a separately incorporated entity which cannot be integrated into the University. Dr. Singer underlined that eConcordia is a vehicle to deliver the courses, while the responsibility for development, coordination and administration of web-based courses will rest within the aforementioned division.

Mr. Blais queried if the senior administrative search procedures will be amended to codify the current practice of the JMSB Search Committee with respect to holding additional public meetings above and beyond the requirements set out in the search procedures. Dr. Lajeunesse replied that there was no such plan at this time.

Further to a question by Mr. Rosenshein regarding the mezzanine and student space, the President identified two problems, the lack of a Student Centre and insufficient study space. He noted that the University is working hard to find an appropriate location for a Student Centre while looking into providing adequate work space. The challenge is to balance the needs of the clubs and the study space. In this respect, Dr. Lajeunesse informed Senate that a meeting will be taking place between CSU President Juma and Vice-President Di Grappa, at which time a win-win proposal will be put forth. When asked by Mr. Blais whether or not the GSA was invited to this meeting, Dr. Lajeunesse suggested that they speak to the CSU.

Pursuant to a question from Prof. Ross, Dr. Lajeunesse confirmed that a presentation regarding performance indicators will be made at the next Senate meeting.

10. Other business

Prof. Dyens congratulated the search committee on the appointment of Dr. Louise Dandurand but expressed reservations in connection with the process, opining that faculty

members were feeling left out and repeating a rumor that she had been offered the position before her actual appointment by the Board.

Dr. Lajeunesse assured him that the procedures were followed to the letter. He specified that the rumor was completely untrue and unjustified, adding that Dr. Dandurand did not sign her contract and resign from her current position before receiving the written confirmation of her appointment from the Secretary of the Board of Governors.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 20, 2006, in Room SP-110 on the Loyola Campus.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate