

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, October 20, 2006, immediately following the meeting
of the Closed Session, in Room SP-110, Loyola Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Mr. P. Blais; Ms. V. Braide; Mr. R. Daoud; Ms. L. Del Vecchio; Mr. Y. El Hamwi; Dean D. Graham; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. B. Hamideh; Ms. A. Henry; Mr. K. Juma; Prof. R. Kilgour; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. N. Nixon; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. E. Regler; Ms. C. Reimer; Mr. S. Rosenshein; Prof. C. Ross; Prof. R. Rudin; Dean E. Saccà; Mr. P. Schiefke; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. F. Shaver; Prof. P. Stoett; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Trueman; Dean C. Wild; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Prof. M. Danis; Mr. M. Di Grappa; 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: Prof. L. Blair; Prof. O. Dyens; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. M. Jamal; Prof. W. Lynch; Ms. E. Silver; Dr. M. Singer; Dr. T. Vo-Van

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. O'Brien at 2:15 p.m.

2. Concordia Centraide Campaign

Campaign Co-Chairs Kathleen Perry and Miriam Posner made a short presentation to Senate about Centraide's annual fundraising campaign, stating that Centraide is an umbrella organization for over 350 socially and culturally diverse Montreal-based charities. Centraide's overall goal this year is set at \$50,000,000, with Concordia's set at \$200,000. They thanked everyone who has donated in the past and encouraged all Senators to give generously to this very important endeavor.

3. Approval of the Agenda

R-2006-8-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Trueman, Peluso), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 15, 2006

Prof. Hamalian asked that a correction be brought to page 4 of the Minutes.

R-2006-8-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Saccà, Peluso), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 15, 2006 be approved, as revised.*

5. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

Mr. Di Grappa reported that he was working with the Vice-Provost, Academic Facilities on finding short and long term solutions for the expansion of the Webster Library. He further reported that the services formerly offered by the Printing Services and Copy Centre, as well as some new services, were now being offered by the Digital Store. He had received positive feedback, and three former employees of the Copy Centre are employed by the Digital Store.

Referring to statements made by Dr. Singer, Prof. Peluso conveyed that the Minutes of the April 7 Senate meeting indicated that all courses from eConcordia would be owned by the departments and faculties. Moreover, the document distributed at that meeting stated that eConcordia would be an integral part of the School of "General Studies". She said that she was totally confused and asked for clarification. Dr. Ross reiterated the same view as Prof. Peluso, quoting a statement by Dr. Singer contained in the Minutes of a meeting of the JMSB Faculty Council to the effect that eConcordia would cease to exist. He opined that the proposal was approved on that basis, and that any changes to the proposal would need to be re-approved by the Councils and Senate.

Dr. Lajeunesse replied that the transition committee's mandate would include eConcordia. Dr. O'Brien suggested that a distinction should be made between what the University wants to do and the legal format by which it is done. He added that the Provost was absent since he was attending Dr. Jack Lightstone's installation ceremony, but that he could be expected to report on this matter at a subsequent meeting.

Further to a query by Dr. Shaver, Mr. Di Grappa replied that the meeting between the Dean of Students and the CSU to identify needs for student space and discuss a number of other issues had not yet occurred.

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2006-8-D2)

Mr. Blais indicated that the GSA appointee on the Academic Programs Committee had not been approved by the GSA Council. Therefore, that individual's name was removed from the list.

R-2006-8-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lajeunesse, Hamalian), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to committees, as outlined in Document US-2006-8-D2, be approved, as revised.*

7. Recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2006-8-D3)

7.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2006-8-D4 to D9)

R-2006-8-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Shaver), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Documents US-2006-8-D4 to D9, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2006-8-D3.*

7.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Documents US-2006-8-D10)

R-2006-8-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Trueman, Al-Khalili), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Document US-2006-8-D10, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2006-8-D3.*

7.3 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2006-8-D11)

Dr. O'Brien indicated that minor curriculum changes are forwarded solely for information.

8. Presentation on performance indicators

The President prefaced the presentation by underlining the importance of this exercise, which will allow Concordia to plan, to be accountable and transparent, to measure trends and to ascertain if it is moving in the right direction.

Mr. Bradley Tucker, Director, Institutional Planning Office, began by explaining the mandate of the Institutional Planning Office. In August 2004, an extensive consultation was undertaken, which resulted in the approval of the Academic Plan by all Faculty Councils and Senate. The Academic Plan outlined seven challenges which, although presented separately, are interactive, and proposed a data-driven strategic decision-making model together with a series of measurements, in order words, where do we want to go and how do we measure our progress.

Mr. Tucker conveyed the primary data sources for the report. Much of the data were drawn from internal sources. For comparative measurements, data from independent sources, such as the databases from various granting and research councils, was favoured. Concordia also joined several data-sharing consortia in order to broaden its access to valid, reliable, comparative data. The recently-conducted reputation survey provided data regarding how Concordia is viewed across Canada.

Mr. Tucker continued by apprising Senators that the report contains 41 measurements and 62 graphs. Each measurement has a page of text with description, relation to the Academic Plan, definitions, commentary and source. He then focused his presentation the following measurements, detailing what they track in relation to specific challenges: reasons for choosing Concordia, faculty/staff satisfaction, number of professors, number of FTE students, FTE undergraduate/graduate ratio, student satisfaction, active learning, academic

support services, student retention, graduation rates, research funding per tenured and tenure-track professor, scholarly productivity index, number of international students, and facilities conditions index.

In conclusion, Mr. Tucker opined that Concordia is a University on the move, which has a wealth of data at its disposal to support its strategic planning initiatives, to mobilize various sectors to work towards the common goal of becoming a leading University.

Further to the presentation, a discussion ensued during which Senators congratulated Mr. Tucker on this endeavour, and the latter responded to comments and questions. Senators were invited to pick up a copy of the full report entitled *Measuring Excellence at Concordia University* and to address any comments or questions they had with respect to the report to Ms. Tessier or directly to Mr. Tucker.

9. Remarks from the President

9.1 Update on the search for a Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs

Dr. Lajeunesse apprised Senate that the membership of the Provost Search Committee is now complete. The committee has met once to discuss its mandate and to review a preliminary position profile. Janet Wright & Associates has been retained as the executive search firm. The profile has been circulated to the relevant constituencies for comments, will be included on the November 10 Senate agenda for comments and thereafter submitted to the Board of Governors for approval at its meeting of November 23 meeting.

10. Items for information

10.1 Update on the search for a Dean of the John Molson School of Business

Reporting on behalf of Dr. Singer, Dr. Lajeunesse informed Senators that three public meetings were held this week to introduce each of the short-listed candidates. Candidates have been well received, and there was a very good turnout from the JMSB community to the meetings. Comments regarding the candidates should be communicated to the Secretary of the Search Committee, Susan Aberman, by October 25. The Committee will reconvene on October 30 to review comments and hopefully select a candidate to recommend to the Board.

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

The President, on behalf of the Provost, indicated that the membership of the Search Committee for a Dean of the School of "General Studies" is in the process of being completed, and the first meeting will be convened within the next few weeks. The tendering process for the executive search firm has been completed. A transition committee, whose role will be to frame the operations of the School in a very broad sense, is being established with representation from each Faculty, the Department of Continuing Education and the Centre for Mature Students. The Provost will chair the committee.

11. Question period

Emphasizing the importance of the budget and the absence of budget reports on Senate agendas, Prof. Segovia wondered if a document was available regarding the preparation and

approval of the budget. Mr. English stated that a document had recently been prepared which summarizes the budget approval process and that he would be pleased to provide it.

Prof. Segovia also enquired if the Finance Committee has a schedule of meetings and if the meetings are public. Ms. Tessier replied that she was unaware of any schedule of meetings for that committee and that the meetings of all Senate standing committees are closed. Dr. O'Brien indicated that the issue of the Finance Committee will be placed on the agenda of the next Steering Committee meeting.

Mr. Blais wondered if the fees which are charged to users of the Laurentian Bank automatic teller machines on campus go back to the University. Mr. Di Grappa replied that the University does not receive any of the fees charged to users of the automatic teller machines. Instead, it receives an annual fee for the space provided.

Prefacing his question with a preamble during which he expressed concern about the centralization of academic decisions and the lack of consultation of Senate, Prof. Ross requested that an agenda item be placed on an upcoming Senate meeting regarding the role of Senate. Dr. O'Brien indicated that this question will be put to Steering Committee at its next meeting.

In response to a query by Mr. Rosenshein, Me Danis informed Senate of the expectation of the JMSB groundbreaking announcement within the next two weeks.

12. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 10, 2006, in Room EV 2.260 on the SGW Campus.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate