

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, January 12, 2007,
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

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

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

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. L. Blair; Mr. B. Hamideh; Mr. P. Schiefke; Ms. E. Silver; Dr. T. Vo-Van; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Me P. Fréreau; Mr. K. Pruden

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2007-1-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Saccà), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 8, 2006

Dr. O'Brien informed Senators that a correction to the two first paragraphs of item 13 on page 7 had been brought to the Minutes and therefore a revised page 7 had been distributed.

In reference to page 2 under Business Arising, Prof. Segovia felt that his comments had not been adequately represented. Dr. O'Brien instructed him to convey his proposal to Steering

Committee which would consider the appropriateness of modifying the Minutes. As a result, the approval of the Minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

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

Dr. Singer thanked Senate for the best wishes expressed at the last meeting.

4.1 Follow-up on measurements in Academic Plan (Document US-2007-1-D1)

Rather than belaboring the point raised by Prof. Ross regarding the number of measurements included in the Academic Plan, Dr. Singer referred to Document US-2007-1-D1, prepared by Mr. Bradley Tucker, and encouraged Senators to contact Mr. Tucker if they had any questions or comments in relation thereto. Prof. Ross proposed that Mr. Tucker be invited to an upcoming meeting so that Senate could have a full discussion regarding the measurements.

4.2 Other items

In response to a query by Mr. Daoud about the expansion of the Webster library, Mr. Di Grappa said that the planning is ongoing while specifying that the implementation of the project is subject to the availability of funds. There is a plan to move some non-academic units to floors that are not occupied by the library. The President's Executive Group has approved renovations to the upper floors of the McConnell Building. When asked if freed up space on the fifth floor could be attributed to the library as a temporary solution, it was noted that the planners will look at the configuration of the library in its entirety, not just one floor.

Mr. Blais questioned the validity of Dr. Dandurand moving a motion prior to her position being formally approved. He was informed that Dr. Dandurand had been appointed Acting President by Dr. Lajeunesse and that she had moved the motion in that capacity. Mr. Blais then questioned the legality of appointing an Acting President at Senate meetings. Dr. O'Brien replied that the opinion of Legal Counsel would be sought and communicated to Mr. Blais.

Dr. O'Brien apprised Senate that Steering Committee was looking into Senate composition and a proposal would be presented to Senate in due course. With respect to the Code of Conduct (Academic), a report from the CSU representatives was expected for the next meeting of Steering Committee, with a view of placing this item on the agenda of the February Senate meeting.

5. Recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2007-1-D2)

5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – All Faculties (Document US-2007-1-D3)

R-2007-1-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Daoud), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in all Faculties regarding co-operative programs, set out in Document US-2007-1-D3, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-1-D2.*

5.2 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Document US-2007-1-D4)

R-2007-1-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Saccà, Kilgour), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Document US-2007-1-D4, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-1-D2.*

5.3 Major graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
(Document US-2007-1-D5)

R-2007-1-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Saccà, Esmail), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Document US-2007-1-D5, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-1-D2.*

5.4 Minor graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
(Document US-2007-1-D6)

Dr. O'Brien specified that minor curriculum changes are forwarded for information purposes only.

6. Appointments to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance Affairs (Document US-2007-1-D7)

R-2007-1-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Ross, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance be approved, as detailed in Document US-2007-1-D7.*

Dr. O'Brien mentioned that, in order to get the Committee up and running, Steering Committee designated Dr. Singer as the convener of the first meeting, at which time the Committee will elect its chair. Dr. Singer added that his office is trying to schedule meetings, noting that the report to Senate will be very preliminary in the event that only one meeting is held prior to February 2.

7. Recommendation regarding an amendment to article 41 c) of the University By-Laws
(Document US-2007-1-D8)

Dr. Lajeunesse prefaced his motion by saying that the proposal before Senate was of a technical nature to correct the anomaly of not having the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies as a voting member of Senate.

The Speaker added that a number of other changes to the composition of Senate had been put forth and discussed at the November meeting, at which time Senate decided to table the proposal. Steering Committee will review the proposal for Senate's future consideration. Dr. O'Brien confirmed that since the November meeting the issue of Senate composition had been placed on every Steering Committee meeting agenda but that it has been preempted by other issues.

A discussion ensued, during which some Senators agreed that this anomaly must be rectified and that the proposed change was necessary and appropriate at this time, while expressing the expectation that the broader discussion of Senate composition come back to Senate in a timely manner. However, other Senators indicated that they did not disagree with the

change per se but with the process by which it was being presented. Assurance was given to those Senators that Steering Committee would deal with the overall Senate composition over its next two meetings. The question was called by Prof. Nixon, seconded by Dean Wild, further to which the majority of Senators were in favor of voting on the main motion.

R-2007-1-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lajeunesse, Saccà), it was resolved by a majority that, upon the recommendation of Steering Committee, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors that it approve an amendment to article 41 c) of the University By-Laws to replace the position of Vice-Provost, Research with that of Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies, as outlined in Document US-2007-1-D8.*

Mr. Blais requested that his objection be noted, stating that it was not based on the individual or the inclusion of the position as a member of Senate but on the fact that this change should have been discussed as part of the broader document tabled at the November Senate meeting.

8. Appointment of a Tribunal Hearing Chair (Document US-2007-1-D9)

R-2007-1-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Ross, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that Senate approve the appointment of a Tribunal Hearing Chair, as detailed in Document US-2007-1-D9.*

9. Report on the School of "General Studies"

The Provost apprised Senate that the Transition Committee had met twice. Its mandate is to identify strategies and options for implementation by the new Dean. The Committee has established a task force to discuss issues in relation to programs for students in academic jeopardy and another to discuss space issues. He added that the Vice-President, Finance and the Executive Director of Academic Administration are preparing a budgetary document which details projected revenue and expenses for the next year. He concluded by stating that a five-page discussion document on the School of "General Studies" would be made available to members of Senate.

10. Remarks from the President

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

Dr. Lajeunesse conveyed that since the last Senate meeting, the Provost Search Committee has met twice, on December 13 and January 8. The Committee has finalized its interview questions and process and has begun narrowing down the list of candidates to be interviewed. It is expected to finalize the list at its next meeting, scheduled for January 14. The first series of interviews will be conducted at the end of the month.

11. Items for information

11.1 Reports from Senate Standing Committees

As he explained at the last meeting, Dr. O'Brien reminded Senators that he would not call on two committees, namely the Distinguished Professor Emeritus Committee and the Special Graduation Awards Committee, because of the nature of their operations by virtue of which recommendations for appointments and awards, respectively, are approved by Senate in the Spring. He then called upon the following committees:

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SCAPP): Its Chair, Dr. Singer, indicated that a report will be made at the next Senate meeting, given that a meeting is scheduled for January 19.

Academic Programs Committee (APC): Its Chair, Dr. Morin, is currently abroad. However, its report is included under item 5 hereinabove.

Research Committee: Its Chair, Dr. Vo-Van, was absent. However, a detailed report was provided at the last meeting.

Library Committee: Mr. Curran, Director of Libraries, mentioned that the committee had not met since the last Senate meeting, at which time a detailed report was given.

Finance Committee: Having been asked by Senate to convene a first meeting, Mr. English reported that a meeting was scheduled to be held on January 16.

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

The Provost apprised Senate that at its December meeting, the Search Committee had decided to extend the search. The Committee will be meeting on January 16 to review a second round of candidates.

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

Dr. Singer reported that the Search Committee has met and retained the services of Provence Consulting. Advertisements have appeared in national and international newspapers and academic journals. The Committee will be meeting in February to review a list of potential candidates.

11.4 General report on academic matters

The Provost reported on the following:

- a) 105 sabbatical leaves were approved by the Board of Governors at its December meeting;
- b) 72 full-time probationary professors were eligible for contract renewal, of which 66 were renewed for various terms;
- c) Registrations are up compared to this time last year, however, final figures can only be confirmed after the deadline for course withdrawal on January 15. An analysis on the drop rates in enrolments is currently being done by Mr. Bradley Tucker. Dr. Singer congratulated the Deans for their efforts to maintain registration viability; and
- d) Hiring of full-time professors for 2007 has begun, with four new hires in JMSB and two in A&S so far. The final decision about hiring will be made after the close of the registration period.

11.5 Other items

Dean Tomberlin apprised Senate that the MBA International Case Competition, with participation of 36 teams from all over the world, was ongoing. He was also delighted to announce that undergraduate students had performed exceptionally well at the Commerce Games, earning 11 medals for a total of 15 possible disciplines and winning overall academic gold. He thanked the faculty members who had coached the students.

12. Question period

With respect to the School of “General Studies”, Prof. Regler asked if any progress had been made in finding a suitable name. Dr. Singer responded that the University is hoping to have a donation made to the School which could result in a naming opportunity.

Stating a concern about the abolition of the Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof. Ross asked what was going to happen after May 31 and which changes would be brought. Dr. Lajeunesse replied that Dr. Dandurand had taken office on November 1. She was dealing with numerous issues and was conducting a wide consultation. She will report to Senate in due course.

Ms. Henry wondered if any documentation would be available with regard to the parliamentary hearing on education, to which Dr. Lajeunesse stated that his presentation will be posted on the University website following the presentation.

Mr. Blais asked Me Danis if he was aware of the election platforms of the provincial political parties. The latter answered that the Parti Québécois favors tuition freeze but that he had heard nothing yet from the Liberal Party. Dr. Lajeunesse added that he had met with the leaders of the two major parties, and both are deeply committed to higher education and have a very solid understanding of its importance for Quebec’s future.

Referring to a recent article in *Le Devoir*, Prof. Hamalian queried Dr. Lajeunesse about the mandate and reporting structure of the committee on good governance. The President stated that the Institute for Governance of Private and Public Organizations had been established by JMSB, HEC and Stephen Jarislowsky. It has an independent board of directors. The Institute was looking at governance issues in relation to private organizations and felt that public institutions should also be looked at, and therefore Dr. Lajeunesse was approached to participate in a new study group formed to examine the governance of Quebec universities. The study group will report its recommendations to the Institute.

Mr. El-Yamwi mentioned that students were experiencing problems in choosing courses when a professor’s homepage is not linked to the course. Mr. McAusland responded that not every professor has a homepage and that it is up to each professor to decide whether or not a web presence is wanted. Dr. Lajeunesse suggested that a reminder be sent to professors about web presence with clear instructions about links. Dr. Singer added that he would discuss the topic at the next academic cabinet and invite Mr. McAusland. Prof. Peluso noted a problem when TBA is indicated on course schedules in lieu of the name of the instructor. Dr. Singer said that this issue would also be discussed at the next meeting of the academic cabinet. Mr. McAusland indicated that the process is currently being reconfigured and that significant changes will be brought for September.

13. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

14. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 2, 2007, in Room EV 2.260 on the SGW Campus.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate