

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, February 2, 2007, immediately following the Closed Session
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Prof. L. Blair; 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; Mr. B. Hamideh; Ms. A. Henry; Prof. M. Jamal; Prof. R. Kilgour; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. E. Mongerson; Prof. N. Nixon; Prof. E. Regler; Ms. C. Reimer; Mr. S. Rosenshein; Prof. C. Ross; Prof. R. Rudin; Mr. P. Schiefke; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. F. Shaver; Dr. M. Singer; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Trueman; Prof. W. Zerges; Dean C. Wild

Non-voting members: 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*); Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer

Also attending: Dr. L. Dandurand (Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies); Ms. I. Sendek (Acting Director of Libraries); Dr. T. Stathopoulos (Acting Dean – School of Graduate Studies)

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. P. Blais; Mr. K. Juma; Prof. M. Peluso; Dean E. Saccà; Ms. E. Silver; Prof. P. Stoett; Dr. T. Vo-Van

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:18 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2007-2-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Henry, Rosenshein), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of:

3.1 December 8, 2006

R-2007-2-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Hamalian), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 8, 2006 be approved.*

3.2 January 12, 2007

R-2007-2-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Tomberlin), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 12, 2007 be approved.*

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

In response to a question, Dr. O'Brien mentioned that the undergraduate students have completed their consultation with respect to the Academic Code of Conduct and distributed their recommendations at the last Steering Committee meeting. Members felt that they needed time to read the document and therefore it was agreed to defer the discussion to the March Steering Committee meeting, with a view of placing this item on the Agenda of the March Senate meeting.

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2007-2-D2)

R-2007-2-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lajeunesse, Henry), it was unanimously resolved that the committee appointments, as outlined in Document US-2007-2-D2, be approved.*

It was specified that the composition of the Finance Committee is now complete and that the membership has been communicated to Mr. English who is responsible for convening the meetings until such time as the committee will have elected its Chair.

6. Interim report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance

Dr. Singer apprised Senators that the Committee had a very useful and efficient meeting on January 26, covering significant ground. The Committee discussed its mandate. Members will be reviewing two sets of documents, the first being the University By-Laws, regulations and procedures defining the role of Senate. The second set of documents will comprise information gathered from a dozen or so comprehensive universities in Canada in order to examine their Senate, focusing more particularly on the following elements:

- Powers and functions
- Composition (mix and size)
- Chair, and/or role of President if not the Chair
- Structure and mandate of Standing Committees
- Senate relationship with the Governing Board

Dr. Singer reported that he had been unanimously elected as the Committee's Chair. He conveyed the Committee's sentiment that the March deadline in the original motion approved by Senate was not realistic together with its suggestion that the final report be placed on the April Agenda of Senate. Moreover, while the composition of Senate had not been part of the original mandate, Steering Committee had proposed that the Committee look at that matter and the Ad Hoc Committee had agreed to address the issue.

A discussion ensued, during which it was suggested that the relationship between Senate and the Faculty Councils could also be looked at by the Committee if time permitted. There was a consensus with respect to the additions to the mandate as well as to the extension of the deadline for the final report.

7. Remarks from the President

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

Dr. Lajeunesse reported that since last Senate meeting, the Provost Search Committee had met five times. The Committee interviewed five candidates and had decided to invite two of them back for a second interview to be conducted next Friday.

8. Report on the School of "General Studies"

8.1 Update on the Transition Committee

Dr. Singer indicated that a few task forces had been set up by the Transition Committee in order to establish direction in five themes: programs for at-risk students, integrated marketing strategy, staffing needs, space, and funding. He has met with the Directors of Continuing Education and of the Centre for Mature Students. The projected revenues and expenses for the next three years are being sketched out. The Provost confirmed the objective to have the School of "General Studies" up and running by the completion of his mandate.

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

The Provost reported that Provence Consulting had been retained and that a number of interesting candidates had applied. The Committee is scheduled to meet before the mid-term break to assemble a list of candidates to be interviewed.

A lengthy discussion ensued with respect to the general discussion document on the School of "General Studies" which had been forwarded to Senators by Ms. Tessier after the last Senate meeting, during which the following issues were raised by Senators and responded to by Dr. Singer:

- 1) How can credit courses be given to students who are not admissible? Are the courses transferable? Will they be second-rate courses?

The School of "General Studies" is not expected to offer any courses except in partnership with the Faculties. Course credit will be transferable to undergraduate programs in the same way that it is for mature students and independent students. Students who do not initially meet our admission requirements will be offered special programs combining non-credit and credit courses. There is no intention to lower admission standards to existing programs or Faculties or to compromise on academic quality.

- 2) What will be the contribution of students to funding of the School?

The School is intended to be self-sustaining. The fees from non-credit courses are expected to cover the administrative and operational costs of the School. The money generating from the traditional credit courses will be returned to the Faculties and the

University in accordance with current practice. The School will be an agent for the University. Any surplus generated by the School will return to the bottom line of the University's budget.

- 3) What will happen if the School is less profitable than anticipated?

It is extremely unlikely that the School will not generate a profit. The Transition Committee is looking at the expansion of services provided to mature students, independent students, visiting students and non-credit students, but the costs of these expanded services will be absorbed within the non-credit revenue generated by the School.

- 4) What assurance can be given that the revenue generated will be sufficient to maintain the services provided to mature students? Will student advising be cut back in the case of a revenue shortfall?

There is a strong commitment to the services dispensed by the Centre of Mature Student. Moreover, a better job can be done with visiting students and independent students. While there is no guarantee in terms of revenue in the future, the ground work has been done in order to ensure that this endeavor meets its objectives and becomes successful.

- 5) With respect the concept as it is outlined in the document, will the School not be marginalized within the University, becoming a second-class school? Was the inclusion of eConcordia an error?

It was pointed out that the correct spelling is eConcordia (not e-Concordia as stated in the document). The School is responsible for coordinating all web-based courses and programs, whether credit or non-credit. It will be one of its principal functions. The mission and role of eConcordia is solely to produce and deliver courses, not to determine or approve the curriculum which is under the purview of the Departments, Faculties and Senate.

8.3 Comments on the profile of the ideal candidate for a Dean of the School of "General Studies" (Document US-2007-2-D3)

Dr. O'Brien specified that approval was not sought and that the comments would be communicated to the Advisory Search Committee for its consideration. It was pointed out that on page 1, a word was missing in item 7 and that item 10 also needed to be reworded. Views were also expressed that the some points in the document were unclear and that some sentences needed clarification, such as items 4 and 6 on page 1 and item 2 on page 2.

9. Items for information

9.1 Reports from Senate Standing Committees

Academic Programs Committee (APC): Its Chair, Dr. Danielle Morin, informed Senate that APC had not met since the last Senate meeting but that a full report would be given at the next meeting.

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SCAPP): Its Chair, Dr. Singer, apprised Senate that the Committee had met on January 15 and agreed to have monthly meetings. Members discussed SCAPP's mandate and reaffirmed its role in academic deliberations as well as the relationship between SCAPP and the strategic planning process.

It was agreed that Mr. Bradley Tucker will be attending the next meeting of SCAPP to engage in a general discussion and critique of the existing measurement document. Mr. Tucker will also provide an update on new measurements which are being considered and on comments received on existing measurements and get feedback from SCAPP on what other measurements could be considered. Dr. Singer underlined that input from non SCAPP members is welcome. The outcome of this discussion will be reported to Steering Committee with a view of placing this item on an upcoming Senate Agenda.

It was further agreed that the School of "General Studies" documentation will be distributed to the Committee and that SCAPP will begin a review of our progress towards the goals set out in the Academic Plan two years ago.

Library Committee: Reporting on behalf of Mr. Curran, Ms. Irene Sendek indicated that the Committee had not met since the last Senate meeting.

Research Committee: Dr. Dandurand stated that the Committee will be meeting next week to discuss, review and elaborate on research strategies and policies.

Finance Committee: Mr. English reported that the Committee had met on January 16 and has another meeting scheduled for February 6. He had nothing to report at this time, but a report will be coming shortly.

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

Dr. Singer informed Senators that the Search Committee had met last weekend to interview a second round of candidates. The Committee has completed its deliberations and an announcement should be forthcoming regarding the presentation of short-listed candidates to the community.

9.3 General report on academic matters

Having given a comprehensive report on academic issues under SCAPP, Dr. Singer had no other matters to report on at this time.

9.4 Other items

Dr. Morin apprised Senate that Concordia will be hosting a McGraw-Hill Ryerson National Teaching, Learning and Technology Conference on May 14, 15 and 16, 2007 entitled "Spirit of Inquiry: Developing Critical Thinking, Creativity and Community". She gave details regarding the conference sub-themes and keynote speakers and encouraged Senators to participate in this conference.

With respect to the results for CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research) grant applications, Dr. Dandurand was pleased to report that Concordia's success rate had been 42% compared to the national average of 16%. Dean Graham added that five of 12 applications from Concordia had been funded and conveyed some particulars regarding the rankings by the various committees. He mentioned that he was proud of an outstanding achievement by his Faculty: three of the five funded proposals were ranked first overall by their respective committees, and that in one committee, three of the top five awards had been made to Concordia. One grant was awarded in Biology and four in Psychology, and Dean Graham offered congratulations to all those concerned.

10. Question period

In light of budget uncertainties, Prof. Hamalian asked if there had been any new hires and whether this aspect was being discussed by SCAPP or the Finance Committee. Dr. Singer responded that six new full-time tenure-track professors had recently been hired, four in JMSB and two in A&S but that there were some accumulated dossiers in A&S. He specified that all full-time faculty hiring advertised by the University is subject to final budgetary approval. Dr. Singer outlined the hiring process, underlining the commitment to hiring full-time tenure-track professors despite a lack of budget clarity for next year.

Positing that the late registration date creates problems in some intensive language courses, Prof. Dyens asked if there were any plans to change it. The Provost outlined the historical reasons that caused the late registration date and the course withdrawal deadline date to coincide. Dr. Morin recognized that this could be a problem for some courses. It was noted that overbooking course enrolments would not solve the problem. Dr. Singer indicated that as long as the dates for late registration and course withdrawal remained the same, both dates could possibly be moved up and that he would bring this matter before the Academic Cabinet for consideration.

Prof. Ross commented that JMSB classes beginning after 5:30 p.m. are 15 minutes shorter than classes given during the day. In his opinion, this makes a big difference, and he queried the rationale behind this decision. Dr. Singer replied that the difference could be based on the time slot of second evening courses. However, he stated that this matter could be reexamined and suggested that an analysis be done by Mr. Tucker with respect to course registration patterns and evening time slots, which could be reported back to Senate in due course.

11. Other business

At the request of Ms. Henry, speaking privileges were granted to Ms. Justin Levy, CSU Vice-President, External, who related the events planned on the February 7 day of action. He referred to the position stated by Dr. Lajeunesse at the recent parliamentary commission regarding increasing tuition fees, to which the CSU is opposed. The mass gathering of students on February 7 is meant to garner support and explain and communicate their position. In this regard, Dr. Singer specified that, at the request of the undergraduate students and further to a discussion at Steering Committee, a letter had been sent to instructors to encourage them to exercise flexibility when possible when scheduling exams and assignments so that students may participate in day of action without incurring penalty.

Mr. Rosenshein was delighted to inform Senate that, further to a student initiative, a conference which will be held at Palais des Congrès on March 22, 2007 featuring Al Gore and

David Suzuki. While the event is sold out, he noted that some tickets may still be available through ASFA.

12. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 16, 2007, in Room EV 2.260 on the SGW Campus.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate