

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, March 16, 2007, at 2 p.m.
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Dr. L. Dandurand; Mr. R. Daoud; Prof. O. Dyens; Mr. Y. El Hamwi; Dean N. Esmail; Dean D. Graham; Mr. B. Hamideh; Prof. M. Jamal; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. E. Mongerson; Prof. N. Nixon; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. E. Regler; Ms. C. Reimer; Prof. C. Ross; 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; Me P. Frégeau; Ms. L. Healey; Mr. A. McAusland; Dr. J. W. O'Brien (*Speaker*); Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer

Also attending: Dr. T. Stathopoulos (Acting Dean – School of Graduate Studies)

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. L. Blair; Ms. V. Braide; Ms. L. Del Vecchio; Prof. A. Hamalian; Ms. A. Henry; Mr. K. Juma; Prof. R. Kilgour; Mr. S. Rosenshein; Prof. R. Rudin; Dean E. Saccà; Mr. P. Schiefke; Prof. J. Segovia; Ms. E. Silver; Prof. W. Zerges

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:22 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2007-3-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Lynch), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of February 2, 2007

R-2007-3-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of February 2, 2007 be approved.*

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

In response to a question posed by Prof. Ross at the last meeting regarding the reason why JMSB evening classes are 15 minutes shorter than day classes, speaking privileges were granted to Dr. Danielle Morin who gave a detailed account of the number of minutes allotted for classes according to their time slot, the number of times a week they are given, and the Faculty in which they are taught. She indicated that the schedules are determined by each Faculty. A discussion ensued, during which several concerns arose. As a result, and pursuant to Dr. Singer's suggestion, it was agreed that this matter be referred to APC so that it examine the issue, with emphasis placed on the appropriateness of Concordia's contact hours compared to those of other universities.

With respect to the Academic Code of Conduct, Dr. Singer informed Senate that Steering Committee had not yet completed its review. A proposal is expected to come before Senate at its May meeting.

Prof. Shaver wondered if the presentation on measurements made by Mr. Bradley Tucker at a recent meeting of SCAPP will also be made at Senate. Dr. Singer indicated that this item could be placed on either of the May Agendas.

Referring to item 8.2 1) on page 3 of the Minutes regarding the School of "General Studies", Dr. Singer confirmed Prof. Peluso's affirmation that non credit courses would not be converted into credit courses. With respect to tuition fees, students in the School of "General Studies" will pay the same tuition fee for credit or MELS courses, while the tuition fees for non credit courses will continue to be determined as they currently are.

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2007-3-D1)

R-2007-3-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Graham), it was unanimously resolved that the committee appointments, as outlined in Document US-2007-3-D1, be approved.*

6. Election of faculty representation on the Advisory Search Committee for a Director of Libraries (Document US-2007-3-D2)

Dr. O'Brien apprised Senate that Ms. Tessier had not received any nominations and accordingly no election would be conducted. He indicated that second call will be sent out and encouraged Senators who are full-time faculty members to nominate two full-time faculty members or to encourage their colleagues to do so, failing which the full-time faculty members will not have a voice in the selection of the next Director of Libraries.

7. Revisions to the membership of the Council of the John Molson School of Business (Document US-2007-3-D3)

It was specified that the proposed changes were strictly of a housekeeping nature to update the membership of the Council and that no changes were being proposed to the powers of the Council.

R-2007-3-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Tomberlin, Jamal), it was unanimously resolved that upon recommendation of the Council of the John Molson School of Business, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the revisions to the membership of the Council of the John Molson School of Business, as outlined on the third page of Document US-2007-3-D3.*

8. Remarks from the President

Dr. Lajeunesse informed Senate that the meeting of the Board of Governors, scheduled to be held yesterday, had been cancelled because in all likelihood quorum would not have been met.

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

Dr. Lajeunesse reported that since last Senate meeting, the Provost Search Committee met once to conduct a second interview with two candidates. However, the Committee is continuing its work since it is not in a position to make a recommendation for public presentations at this point. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on March 23.

9. Report on the School of "General Studies"

9.1 Update on the Transition Committee

Dr. Singer was pleased with the progress made by the Committee. A series of task forces and working groups had been set up and were examining specific issues such as students at risk, marketing strategies, staffing requirements, space related needs amongst others.

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

Dr. Singer apprised Senators that the Committee had received 30 applications from across North America and Europe. There were several strong candidates and the Committee was working its way through the CVs to arrive at a short list.

Prof. Peluso asked if a formal report from the Transition Committee would be made before hiring the new Dean. Dr. Singer pointed out that the Transition Committee was not a Senate committee. Rather, he had set it with a view to work out transitional and practical issues on an ongoing basis. Dr. Lajeunesse reiterated that the Transition Committee will not cease to exist once the School is formally in place. The new Dean will need support, and the transitional issues will most likely be dealt with by the Transition Committee which will be chaired by the new Dean once that individual will have been appointed.

10. Items for information

10.1 Reports from Senate Standing Committees

Academic Programs Committee (APC): Dr. Morin indicated that there was no report for today.

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SCAPP): Dr. Singer indicated that a progress report on the implementation of the Academic Plan will be presented in May.

Library Committee: Mr. Curran reported on the matters discussed at the March 6 meeting of the Library Committee with respect to results of the LibQUAL+ 2006 survey, the project "Sails" regarding standardized testing of information literacy skills and initiatives on institutional repositories for libraries.

Research Committee: Dr. Dandurand summarized the matters discussed at the February 8 Research Committee meeting in connection with devising an action plan for the coming year, the mapping of institutional research within the University and research sustainability.

Finance Committee: There was no report from the Finance Committee.

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

Dr. Singer mentioned that the Search Committee was continuing its work and making some progress.

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

Dr. Singer informed Senate that since the last meeting, the Committee has on February 9 and March 9. It has reviewed extensive research compiled by Mr. Jason Ens on the composition, responsibilities and powers of Senate of 10 Canadian comprehensive universities and has sought input from the six faculty members who sit on the Board of Governors. Dr. Singer noted some preliminary findings, positing that in most ways Concordia's Senate is similar to that of other universities. The Committee has almost completed the review of the composition of Senate and of the mandates of the Senate Standing Committees. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19.

When asked if the Committee had examined the composition of Senate of Quebec universities, Dr. Singer replied that aside from UQAM, the other Quebec universities are not in the comprehensive category and therefore the Committee did not feel it was appropriate to compare them with Concordia. The information regarding UQAM is currently being compiled by Mr. Ens.

10.4 General report on academic matters

In regards to achieving the annual objective of hiring 50 tenure track faculty full-time members, Dr. Singer apprised Senators that he was in the midst of hiring 35 individuals, 10 in JMSB and 25 in A&S. As for student enrolments, he stated that applications for admission to the Summer term looked promising while those for the Fall term were slightly down. However, he added that it was still too early to predict final numbers, specifying that the variance was not significant enough to cause concern.

10.5 Other

Ms. Healey reminded Senate of the March 30 deadline for submitting nominations for the six non-academic graduation awards which are giving at the Spring Convocation. She urged Senators to submit nominations, specifying that forms are available at the Office of the Dean of Students and the Birks Student Centre.

Mr. El-Yamwi spoke of a GSA initiative relative to offering free online courses, indicating that APC's opinion would be required. Me Frégeau specified that copyright legislation as well as collective agreement issues must be carefully considered. Mr. McAusland said that while some selected free courses had been given by MIT in the last four years, this was essentially a marketing strategy to attract new students.

11. Question period

Opining that the cancellation of classes on Election Day was problematic, Prof. Dyens asked whether or not professors could make arrangements with students to hold classes. The President agreed that this was a source of concern and that the President's Executive Group had discussed whether or not classes should be cancelled. However, the law specified "donner congé aux étudiants". The Deputy Minister had written to confirm no classes can be held.

Referring the high noise level in the Webster Library which drives students to go to neighboring coffee shops to study, Prof. Dyens asked what steps were being taken to solve this problem. Mr. Curran concurred that the library gets noisy when congested and crowded. However, students who work in groups are as welcome as those working alone, and that is why several requests for additional space, including seminar rooms on the fifth floor, have been made. The Provost, who was unaware that the noise level was getting worse, ensured Senate that this concern is being taken seriously and that this matter will be looked into further.

Stating her view that a dismissive attitude was not helpful, Prof. Peluso expressed frustration with respect to the length of the CUPFA negotiations and asked when an agreement would be concluded. Dr. Lajeunesse replied that the negotiation teams on both sides are competent. He affirmed that the University's objective is to reach an agreement which will be fair to all parties and which will benefit students and enable the members to fulfill their duties.

Further to a query from Prof. Ross with respect to the future of the School of Graduate Studies, Dr. Dandurand indicated her intention to outline at the May 25 Senate meeting the consultation process she will have put in place. As of June 1, she will take over the duties of the Dean until such time that a new governance structure will have been determined.

12. Other business

Mr. Daoud mentioned that the Concordia Entrepreneurship and Management Association (CEMA) and the ACE Concordia Team were in Ottawa attending the Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE) Conference and competing in the SIFE/HSBC Financial literacy competition, specifying that last year they had brought home the Award for Innovation in their league.

Prof. Nixon pointed out that the May 25 Senate meeting conflicted with Canadian Learned Society conference which was being held in Saskatoon.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 13, 2007, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260 on the SGW Campus.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate