

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, April 13, 2007, at 2 p.m.
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Dr. L. Dandurand; Mr. R. Daoud; Ms. L. Del Vecchio; Prof. O. Dyens; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. B. Hamideh; Ms. A. Henry; Prof. M. Jamal; Ms. K. Kashfi; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. E. Mongerson; Prof. N. Nixon; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. M. Pugh; Prof. E. Regler; Ms. C. Reimer; Dean E. Saccà; Prof. J. Segovia; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Trueman; Dean C. Wild; Prof. W. Zerges

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

Also attending: Mr. R. Côté (Acting Vice-President, Services); Prof. J. Locke (Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science)

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. L. Blair; Ms. V. Braide; Dean D. Graham; Mr. Y. El Hamwi; Mr. K. Juma; Prof. R. Kilgour; Prof. C. Ross; Prof. R. Rudin; Mr. P. Schiefke; Prof. F. Shaver; Dr. M. Singer; Prof. P. Stoett

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:04p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2007-4-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Peluso, Saccà), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of March 16, 2007

R-2007-4-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Lynch), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of March 16, 2007 be approved.*

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

With respect to the level of noise in the Webster Library, Mr. Daoud asked if this issue was being dealt with. In the absence of Dr. Singer who had mentioned that he would look into this matter at the last Senate meeting, Mr. Curran indicated that he had nothing further to report, summarizing the statement he made at the last meeting.

4.1 Update on the Academic Code of Conduct

Dr. Lajeunesse conveyed that since the last Senate meeting, Steering Committee had held a special meeting on March 20 solely to discuss and review the Academic Code of Conduct. He opined that the Committee had done exceptional work and is currently in the final stages of completing its review. Accordingly, a proposal should be included on the May Senate Agenda.

5. Election of faculty representation on the Advisory Search Committee for a Director of Libraries (Documents US-2007-4-D1 to D3)

Referring to the relevant documentation, Dr. O'Brien indicated that only two nominations had been received for the two positions on this Committee. Consequently Sophie Marcotte and Christopher Trueman were declared elected by acclamation by the Speaker.

6. Recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2007-4-D4)

6.1 Major graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2007-4-D5)

R-2007-4-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Saccà, Trueman), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Document US-2007-4-D5, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-4-D4.*

6.2 Major graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2007-4-D6)

R-2007-4-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Saccà, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Document US-2006-4-D6, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-4-D4.*

6.3 Major undergraduate changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2007-4-D7)

In response to queries regarding the industrial work term's effect on the Co-op program, Dr. Lynch explained that this was more flexible in that it did not require the same commitment as the Co-op program which calls for a commitment for the entire program. The industrial work term will help students improve their academic performance and ultimately prepare them to graduate and be ready for the job market. Initially, students might be required to be in good standing, but this has yet to be determined. Dr. Lynch explained how the work term will be reflected on their record, specifying that the students will bear the cost of a three-credit course. Other universities, such as École Polytechnique, have a similar program and now require that one industrial work term be completed prior to graduation.

When asked if students who failed Co-op could apply for an industrial experience work term, Dr. Lynch answered that this would probably be assessed on a case-by-case basis. He concluded by indicating that the goal is to make the industrial experience work term available to the greatest number of students.

R-2007-4-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Esmail, Lynch), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Document US-2007-4-D7, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-4-D4.*

6.4 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Documents US-2007-4-D8 to D10)

6.5 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business (Document US-2007-4-D11)

Dr. O'Brien specified that these items are forwarded for information purposes.

7. Remarks from the President

Dr. Lajeunesse was delighted to note that this had been an exceptional week in terms of academic success. As announced yesterday, Hydro-Quebec has donated \$8 million to Concordia, \$4.8 million of which will be used to create two new ENCS multi-disciplinary research chairs, with the remaining \$3.2 million going towards scholarships and fellowships. He congratulated Dean Esmail and his team as well as Vice-President Assayag.

Moreover, at the invitation of the President, Dr. Dandurand was pleased to convey the excellent news received this morning regarding a grant of \$1 million over four years for Concordia's Centre for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology from the Fonds de la recherche en santé (FRSQ). Dr. Dandurand pointed out that this was the first research group in a university with no faculty of medicine to receive FRSQ's recognition. Dr. Dandurand also apprised Senate of two successful grant applications in the area of health for new researchers, one from for CIRH and one from FRSQ.

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

The President reported that since the last Senate meeting, the Provost Search Committee met once, on March 23. The Search Committee is continuing its work and is hoping to announce new developments shortly.

8. Items for information: Reports from University Councils and Boards, and reports concerning outside bodies

8.1 Reports from Senate Standing Committees

Academic Programs Committee (APC): Dr. Morin indicated that there was nothing further to report.

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SCAPP): Dr. Singer, its Chair, was absent.

Library Committee: Mr. Curran indicated that the Committee had not met since the last Senate meeting.

Research Committee: Dr. Dandurand indicated that the Committee had not met since the last Senate meeting.

Finance Committee: Mr. English said that the Committee would be meeting shortly and had no report to bring before this meeting. Prof. Hamalian requested that a written report be submitted to the next Senate meeting, even if it is only to explain why there is no report.

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

Dr. Lajeunesse was pleased to report that, at its meeting of yesterday morning, the Board of Governors had appointed Dr. Sanjay Sharma as Dean of the John Molson School of Business for a term beginning on August 1, 2007 and ending on June 30, 2012. He emphasized Dr. Sharma's extraordinary business and academic qualifications, adding that the relevant details are posted on the University website.

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

Reporting on behalf of Dr. Singer, Dean Esmail apprised Senate that, at the end of March, the Advisory Search Committee had interviewed three candidates, who also met separately with both the Provost and the President, pursuant to which the Committee requested that an open meeting be held on April 16 and 17 to present two candidates for the position, Dr. Kathryn Shailer and Mr. Noel Burke. The resume of both candidates is available on the University website along with the details on the open meeting. In addition, during their day on campus each of the candidates will have private meetings with several individuals.

Senators as well as all members of the University community are encouraged to attend the meetings and forward their comments to the Committee by April 25. The Advisory Search Committee will reconvene in late April to review the input provided and arrive at its decision.

8.4 Interim Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance

In the absence of Dr. Singer, Dr. O'Brien informed Senators that since the last Senate meeting, the Committee has met once, on March 19. It is expected to meet again at least once with a view of bringing its proposal to Steering Committee at an upcoming meeting.

8.5 Graduate regulation - Leaves of Absence from Programs policy (Document US-2007-4-D12)

Dr. O'Brien apprised Senate that this document was forwarded for information purposes.

8.6 Other

Dean Saccà informed Senate that ADESAQ, an organization of Quebec Deans of Graduate Studies, has a subcommittee, of which she is a member, to study the structure and the completion and attrition rates in Quebec Master's programs compared to those in the rest of Canada and the United States. The findings will be discussed at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies in the Fall and in several Quebec venues. The sub-committee is finalizing

its report, and preliminary findings reveal that Quebec students take significantly longer to complete their programs than their Canadian and American counterparts.

9. Question period

In response to a query from Prof. Segovia, Mr. English mentioned that the budget would probably be presented for information at the May 25 Senate meeting. Prof. Segovia asked that the budget be accompanied by a report from the Finance Committee commenting on the implication of the budget on the academic sector, and that both the aforementioned report and the budget be available prior to the meeting. Prof. Hamalian opined that a report from SCAPP should be produced at the same time.

Prof. Peluso asked for clarification as to whether or not eConcordia is part of the School of "General Studies". Dr. Lajeunesse responded that eConcordia is a delivery vehicle and does not have any purview over the content of any course. The School of "General Studies" will be responsible, in collaboration with the appropriate academic unit, for the content of all credit and non-credit courses under its aegis.

Further to queries from Prof. Peluso and Dr. Oppenheimer regarding inclusion of the School of "General Studies" in the budget, Mr. English replied in the affirmative, specifying that it will be in the form of a line of net contribution.

Indicating that her comment was directed at the Provost, and for the sake of transparency, Prof. Peluso posited that a progress report from the Transition Committee would be desirable.

Prof. Segovia asked about the presence of increased security agents in the GM building and why the 8th floor could not be accessed from the staircases, contrary to all other floors in that building. In absence of Mr. Di Grappa, Acting Vice-President Roger Côté answered that appropriate security measures are being taken and not restricted to any particular location. Prof. Segovia replied that this did not address his query, to which Mr. Côté said that it would be looked into and that the query would be conveyed to Mr. Di Grappa.

Prof. Nixon wondered why the results for the Concordia fellowships were only received in April, in light of the application deadline that was in December. She opined that this was problematic because Concordia was losing students to other universities. Dean Saccà responded that applications are evaluated at the program level and then by Faculty representatives before going to the University committee of Faculty representatives. She said that Concordia needs about ten times as much funding for fellowships as it now has, which is the key problem. Prof. Nixon also asked about Concordia success rates in federal SSHRC and NSERC competitions. Dean Saccà said she would provide a report on the success rates at the next Senate meeting.

10. Other business

Mr. Daoud was very proud to announce that JMSB undergraduate students had won overall gold in the 2007 Happening Marketing competition, held from March 23 to March 25.

Ms. Henry apprised Senate that that the Unity slate had won the recent undergraduate student elections. Over 8000 students had participated, resulting in the highest voter turnout

in Concordia's history. She congratulated Senators Leah Del Vecchio who is part of the new CSU Executive and Keyana Kasfhi, newly appointed Senator who will also sit on Senate next September.

Dr. Lajeunesse acknowledged the work and accomplishment of Senators Mohamed Shuriye and Peter Schiefke in connection with the recent youth conference on climate change. He stated that this is a reflection of the ability of students.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 4, 2007, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260 on the SGW Campus.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate