

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, May 4, 2007, immediately after
the Closed Session meeting
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Ms. V. Braide; Dr. L. Dandurand; Mr. R. Daoud; Ms. L. Del Vecchio; Dean D. Graham; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. B. Hamideh; Ms. A. Henry; Mr. S. Jack; Prof. M. Jamal; Mr. K. Juma; Ms. K. Kashfi; Prof. R. Kilgour; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. E. Mongerson; Prof. N. Nixon; Mr. N. Ornstein; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. M. Pugh; Prof. E. Regler; Ms. C. Reimer; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. F. Shaver; Dr. M. Singer; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Trueman

Non-voting members: Prof. M. Danis; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Me P. Frégeau; Mr. A. McAusland; Dr. J. W. O'Brien (*Speaker*)

Also attending: Ms. J. Godolphin (Acting Director of Libraries); Dr. T. Stathopoulos (Acting Dean, School of Graduate Studies); Mr. T. Too (Acting Registrar)

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. L. Blair; Prof. O. Dyens; Mr. Y. El Hamwi; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. C. Ross; Prof. R. Rudin; Dean E. Saccà; Prof. P. Stoett; Dean C. Wild; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Mr. W. Curran; Ms. L. Healey; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Mr. K. Pruden

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:21 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2007-5-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Daoud, Peluso), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 13, 2007

R-2007-5-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Henry), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 13, 2007 be approved.*

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

On behalf of Dean Saccà, Dr. Stathopoulos reported on the success rates of Concordia's graduate students with federal granting agencies. Concordia had a success rate of 97% and 74% for the Master's and Doctoral SSHRC competition respectively, while its success rate in the NSERC combined Master's and Doctoral competition was 63%, up from 57% last year.

Referring to page 5 of the Minutes, Dr. Shaver queried Mr. Di Grappa about the reasons for increased security in the GM building and why access to the 8th floor from the staircases is blocked. Mr. Di Grappa underlined the University's responsibility to ensure that all employees work in a safe environment. The decision to increase security on that floor was made in response to a specific behaviour. The need for extra security is assessed on a continual basis.

Prof. Segovia commented on the absence of a written report from the Finance Committee, despite the request that had been noted on page 4 of the Minutes. He added that his repeated requests for reports at Steering Committee and Senate have been rejected. In his view, it is irresponsible not to monitor the budget, especially when facing a deficit. Dr. Lajeunesse assured Senate that the budget is being closely monitored by the administration and the Board Budget Committee. The administration has a proven record of total accountability. Mr. English pointed out that it was specified on page 5 of the Minutes that the budget will be presented for information at the May 25 Senate meeting.

Mr. Daoud asked for an update on the congestion in the Webster Library. Dr. Singer responded that the issues are known but not easily resolved. There is an ongoing discussion of the issues. Mr. Daoud replied that he was aware that the issues were ongoing and referred to several solutions that had been brought forth but wait-listed. He asked for a timeline in relation to finding the solutions. Mr. Di Grappa emphasized that the problems are being taken seriously but the lack of funds impedes the implementation of the solutions and the ability to confirm a timeline.

5. Recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2007-5-D3)

5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2007-5-D4 to D6)

R-2007-5-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Daoud), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty Arts and Science, set out in Documents US-2007-5-D4 to D6, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-5-D3.*

6. Approval of the Academic Code of Conduct (Documents US-2007-5-D7 and D8)

Dr. Morin referred to Document US-2007-5-D7 which outlines the revision process which began in the Fall 2004 and stated that the Code presented before Senate was the result of several discussions with the students and a consensus reached at Steering Committee.

Dr. Morin responded to several questions of clarification from Senators, which led to Senate unanimously agreeing to amend the text of articles 33 and 71 in Document BG-2007-5-D8, as follows:

Article 33

The words “the Registrar, the instructor and the Departmental Chair, or equivalent, if applicable” are added to the second paragraph so that the revised paragraph read:

33.

When the Dean has decided to dismiss the charge against the student, a copy of the letter dismissing the charge shall be sent to the Secretary, the Registrar, the instructor and the Departmental Chair, or equivalent, if applicable.

Article 71

The wording in the second phrase required clarification, resulting in the deletion of the word “only” and the insertion of the words “no sooner than” between “made” and “five” so that the revised phrase read as follows:

71. *Such written request can be made no sooner than five (5) years after the sanction has been imposed.*

Prof. Lynch raised a concern with respect to article 71, indicating that expunging the notation from the record could be problematic in ascertaining whether or not a student had committed a second offence. Moreover, in light of certain verifications conducted by government agencies which require administrators to confirm whether or not a charge has been upheld against a student, he wondered how those administrators would reply in the absence of any way of knowing if the record had been expunged. He stated the importance of being forthright.

A discussion ensued, during which Me Stéphane Fillion informed Senators that McGill’s code is comprised of the same provision but without the delay. He contacted the Dean of Students and while the latter did not recall any recent inquiries, he stated that a standard reply would be that the record has been reviewed and no sanction had been found. Me Fillion opined that from a legal standpoint this was not an issue. In response to Dr. Lynch’s suggestion that a side-file should be kept so that the student’s history not be erased from the University’s memory, student Senators pointed out that such a measure would defeat the purpose of expunging the record. Other Senators spoke in favor of keeping article 71 as written.

R-2007-5-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Juma), it was resolved with one opposed:*

WHEREAS, upon recommendation of Senate Steering Committee, a working group to review the Academic Code of Conduct was established by Senate in October 2004;

WHEREAS the Academic Programs Committee, the Faculty Councils, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, student advocates and students, formulated their views on the Code revisions throughout the process; and

WHEREAS Senate Steering Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed changes, considered the comments and is now submitting its final proposal;

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, upon recommendation of Senate Steering Committee, Senate approve the revisions to the Academic Code of Conduct, outlined in Document US-2007-5-D8, as amended; and

THAT the revisions take effect as of the 2008/2009 academic year.

Dr. Singer thanked all individuals who had worked tirelessly since 2004 to bring this project to fruition. Dr. Morin was pleased to apprise Senate that the Provost's Office and Faculties will continue to work hard at informing students about the Code. She stated her commitment to collaborate with the CSU to finalize a project aimed at educating new students about plagiarism and cheating. Mr. McAusland responded to several queries with respect to the introduction and accessibility of turnitin.com to faculty members and students.

7. Remarks from the President

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

The President apprised Senators that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on May 10, and that the Committee was continuing its work and hoping to have more news to report at the next meeting.

8. Report on the School of "General Studies"

8.1 Update on the Transition Committee

Dr. Singer reported that the Committee had met three times since the last Senate meeting, including a meeting with the two candidates for the position of Dean. He mentioned that significant progress has been made by the task forces. More specifically:

1. A program is being developed to provide failed students with an opportunity to be readmitted based on their following a specific procedure and a program that includes non-credit study skills as appropriate.
2. For practical reasons, the Centre for Mature Students will be moved, and Murray Sang will head the Centre during Dr. Oppenheimer's sabbatical leave.
3. A recommendation is being considered with respect to fully integrating registration of the non-credit course into the mainstream registration process.
4. Discussions are taking place regarding independent students in the context of an expanded role for the Centre for Mature Students.
5. A preliminary draft organizational structure of the School is being looked into.

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

The Provost informed members of Senate that the two candidates presented to the community were on campus on April 16 and 17. He was pleased with the turnout of the public presentations. Both candidates met with various constituencies, including the members of the Transition Committee. Approximately 20 written comments were received by the Search Committee, which met on April 27. The Committee is deliberating and is expected to make a recommendation shortly.

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

9.1 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 reported that SCAPP has met once since the last Senate meeting and a meeting is scheduled for next week. The Committee is reviewing the performance indicators produced by the Office of Institutional Planning, with the intent of bringing forward a recommendation to Senate at the next meeting.

Prof. Hamalian pointed out that tough budgetary decisions will have to be made and reiterated a request that SCAPP discuss the academic priorities in relation to the budget decision-making. Dr. Singer spoke of the possibility of holding a June Senate meeting devoted to the budget.

Library Committee: Reporting on behalf of Mr. Curran, Ms. Godolphin 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 he will report at the next Senate meeting. Mr. Juma, who sits as the Committee, assured Senate that the Committee is taking its mandate seriously. Dr. Singer repeated the possibility of holding a June Senate meeting.

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

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled to be held on May 10. The objective is to file a report at the May 25 meeting.

9.3 General report on academic matters

Dr. Singer updated Senate on the hiring of the full-time faculty complement. He pointed out a significantly high number of retirements this year. With respect to new hires, a total of 28 tenure-track full time faculty members have been hired in the Faculty of Arts and Science, including two Canada Research Chairs, and 12 in the John Molson School of Business. About 50 new hires are expected for this year.

The Provost added that, in concert with the President, Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies and the Deans, a coordinated strategic approach to full-time tenure track faculty hiring is being established. In order to meet the objectives set out in the Academic Plan, a mechanism to define and apply priorities will be set up, which includes the establishment of a central faculty pool.

9.4 Other

Dr. Singer mentioned that the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Engineering and Computer Science will be meeting tomorrow, and the Advisory Search Committee for a Director of Libraries will be meeting later this month. In both cases, preliminary work will commence (selection of the search consultants, drafting of the advertisements and profile).

10. Question period

In response to queries regarding the date of the special June Senate meeting, the date of the meeting will be communicated by Ms. Tessier in a few days.

11. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

12. Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, May 25, 2007, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260 on the SGW Campus.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate