

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, May 25, 2007, immediately after
the Closed Session meeting
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Prof. L. Blair; Dr. L. Dandurand; Mr. R. Daoud; Prof. O. Dyens; Dean N. Esmail; Dean D. Graham; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. B. Hamideh; Ms. A. Henry; Prof. M. Jamal; Mr. K. Juma; Ms. K. Kashfi; Prof. R. Kilgour; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. E. Mongerson; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. M. Pugh; Prof. E. Regler; Ms. C. Reimer; Prof. C. Ross; Prof. R. Rudin; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. F. Shaver; Dr. M. Singer; Prof. P. Stoett; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Trueman; Dean C. Wild; Prof. W. Zerges

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

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

ABSENT

Voting members: Ms. V. Braide; Ms. L. Del Vecchio; Mr. Y. El Hamwi; Mr. S. Jack; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. N. Nixon; Mr. N. Ornstein; Dean E. Saccà

Non-voting members: Mr. W. Curran; Me P. Frégeau; Mr. A. McAusland; Mr. K. Pruden

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:42 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2007-6-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Mongerson), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 4, 2007

R-2007-6-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 4, 2007 be approved.*

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

With respect to Dr. Singer's statement on page 6 regarding the establishment of a central faculty pool, Prof. Hamalian asked the Provost to define, describe and demonstrate how this will be a better way of proceeding than the current method. Dr. Singer replied that the University's current method of hiring new faculty members is based on the weighting formula. He pointed out that this formula has recently been modified by the Quebec government to Concordia's disadvantage and, moreover, has impeded the growth of two Faculties.

Dr. Singer continued that the University is heading towards difficult financial times and is probably facing a deficit. Thus, discussions he has had with the President, the Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Research and the Deans have led to identifying four overarching academic priorities. A vigorous review of hiring has been done accordingly, and hiring will now be driven by University-wide priorities as well as Faculty priorities.

Referring to a response Dr. Singer had given to Mr. Hamideh after the adoption of the revised Academic Code of Conduct regarding notations on student records, the latter asked that Dr. Singer's response be noted in today's Minutes. Mr. Hamideh recalled Dr. Singer having responded that with respect to notations, the current code applies and therefore sanctions less serious than a failing grade in the course should not be noted on the record.

While Dr. Singer did not recall that particular exchange, Dr. Lynch's recollection was that Dr. Lajeunesse and Dr. Singer had both indicated the sanctions would not be erased from the record. Dr. Morin pointed out that the wording of the current code does not specify that "only" sanctions more serious than a failing grade in the course shall be noted on the record. Therefore, it had been agreed by the Registrar and the Associate Deans in charge of Students Affairs that that all notations must be indicated on the record in order to allow them to track second offences. She added that this practice had led to the clarification in the revised code that will be in effect in the 2008/2009 academic year.

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

5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2007-6-D5 to D9)

R-2007-6-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Stoett), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Documents US-2007-6-D5 to D9, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-6-D4.*

5.2 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2007-6-D10 to D17)

R-2007-6-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Graham), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Documents US-2007-6-D10 to D17, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-6-D4.*

5.3 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Documents US-2007-6-D18 to D27)

R-2007-6-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Esmail), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Documents US-2007-6-D18 to D27, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-6-D4.*

5.4 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2007-6-D28)

R-2007-6-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Document US-2007-6-D28, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-6-D4.*

5.5 Major graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business (Documents US-2007-6-D29 and D30)

R-2007-6-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Tomberlin), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, set out in Documents US-2007-6-D29 and D30, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-6-D4.*

5.6 Minor graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Document US-2007-6-D31)

5.7 Minor graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2007-6-D32)

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

6. Recommendation from SCAPP regarding the performance indicators (Documents US-2007-6-D33 and D34)

Dr. Singer began by praising the valiant work of the member of SCAPP as well as of Mr. Bradley Tucker and the Institutional Planning team. He pointed out that p. 11 of Document US-2007-6-D34, which had been distributed at the meeting, defines the four overarching priorities which should govern the University's action and planning, noting that p. 1 of the document should be revised to show the same priorities. Document US-2007-6-D33 is the second annual report which shows the evolution of the measurements. This document was included in the mailing, but a copy has also been distributed at the meeting.

Dr. Singer then proceeded to comment on each of the four areas, supported by Mr. Tucker who conveyed the highlights throughout on some measurements specific to each area via power point slides. The four areas which SCAPP recommends to Senate to communicate to the Board as the essential academic priorities for Concordia to become a leading university are:

- A critical mass of on-going, full-time professors with strong teaching and research profile;
- Significant support for our expanding research activities;
- Competitive funding to attract outstanding graduate students; and
- Improved levels of academic support services for effective teaching and learning (changed from "Improved levels of academic support services" as written in Document D34 further to a comment by Prof. Hamalian regarding the absence of a reference to teaching and learning in any of the captions).

Dr. Singer noted that the 2007/2008 budget will be on the Agenda of the June meeting of the Board of Governors concurrently with the Measuring Excellence document and is hopeful that this will allow Governors to understand the areas of academic priority.

Further to the presentation, a discussion ensued during which the following issues were raised by Senators and responded to by Dr. Singer and/or Mr. Tucker.

- a) Absence of measurements in relation to the role of part-time faculty member
The importance of part-time faculty members was recognized. The high satisfaction rate of students assumes the contribution of all faculty members. Some measurements could perhaps be added and other ways can be identified to quantify the role and contribution of part-time faculty members.
- b) Difficulties with the long-term financing to implement the priorities
The SCAPP report is identifying what is being privileged in the case of a deficit, in other words, notwithstanding financial constrictions and difficulties in balancing the budget, Concordia will be investing heavily in these four areas of priority.
- c) Absence of certain dimensions: FTE are unweighted, research FTEs need a lot of workload; percentage of graduate students should be included
These aspects will be looked at.
- d) Arts-based research not quantified (page 3 of Document D34)
This is recognized on page 65 and 66 of Document D33. It was agreed that other forms of productivity will be looked into.
- e) Request for additional indicators in the Measuring Excellence document
The addition of measurements showing administrative expenses in relation to operational expenses as well as those showing efficiency and effectiveness will be considered in future reports.
- g) Inconsistency between the graphs on page 86 of Document D33 compared to the text on page 85 and with respect to the labeling regarding future space
The inconsistencies were noted and appropriate adjustments will be made.

Dr. Singer concluded by stating that the required corrections will be made to both Documents D33 and 34, after which the following motion was adopted.

R-2007-6-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Regler), it was unanimously resolved that:*

Whereas Senate unanimously approved a five-year academic plan, Moving Ahead, in 2005;

Whereas one recommendation of that plan was an annual report on Concordia's progress responding to its academic challenges;

Whereas in 2006 Measuring Excellence was prepared for and presented both to Senate and to the Board of Governors;

Whereas the Institutional Planning Office has produced a 2007 edition of Measuring Excellence report which has now been reviewed by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities;

Be it resolved that, upon recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities, Senate confirm and convey to the Board of Governors its endorsement of the four essential academic priorities necessary for Concordia to become a leading Canadian University. These are:

- *A critical mass of on-going, full-time professors with strong teaching and research profiles*
- *Significant support for our expanding research activities*
- *Competitive funding to attract outstanding graduate students*
- *Improved levels of academic support services for effective teaching and learning*

7. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance (Document US-2007-6-D35)

Dr. Singer indicated that, upon the unanimous recommendation of Senate Steering Committee, Senators would be asked to approve in principle the recommendations set out in the Ad Hoc Committee's report, further to which the relevant documentation necessary to implement the changes, such as revisions to the mandates and memberships of Senate Standing Committees and the University By-Laws, etc. would be drafted and brought before Senate for formal approval in the Fall. He then moved a motion to that effect, which also included a proposal to immediately enact the recommendation to abolish the position of Speaker of Senate and enable the President to chair Senate as of September.

Most Senators recognized the great effort expended by the Ad Hoc Committee and a number spoke in favor of several of the proposed changes. However, others felt that some of the changes were a major departure from longstanding practices and opined that more time was needed to reflect upon them, such as the modifications proposed in connection with of the chairing of Senate, reporting structure and membership of the Standing Committees, etc. Prof. Ross and Prof. Lynch, who both members of the Ad Hoc Committee, explained that several of the concerns raised had been considered by the Committee.

During the exchange that followed, several Senators were sympathetic to tabling the report with a view of forwarding same to Faculty Councils and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies for their input.

R-2007-6-13 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Daoud, Kashfi), it was resolved by a majority that the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance, set out in Document US-2007-6-D35, be tabled and referred to the Faculty Councils and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies for comments.*

At 4:50 p.m., Dr. O'Brien queried Senators on what they wanted to do next. Further to a discussion, it was agreed that Senate should dispose of Agenda item 13 first to ensure that the vote would be taken while quorum was still present.

13. Election of the Speaker of Senate

Dr. O'Brien left the meeting, and Dr. Singer took over as Speaker. Ms. Tessier mentioned that in light of the proposal from the Ad Hoc Committee with respect to the chairing of Senate, a call for nominations had not been sent out seeking candidacies for Speaker of Senate.

Moreover, for personal reasons, Dr. O'Brien was willing to stay on but could only do so until the end of the year.

R-2007-6-14 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that Dr. John O'Brien be acclaimed Speaker of Senate until December 31, 2007; and*

That Senate express its appreciation to Dr. O'Brien for his skillful chairmanship of Senate during the past year, as well as his willingness to continue as Speaker for the Fall 2007.

Further to queries about the opportunity of the Speaker receiving a stipend, Ms. Tessier pointed out that the *Enabling Legislation for the Speaker of Senate*, which was included under Appendix Three of the Ad Hoc Committee report filed under Document US-2007-6-D35, specifically provided that there were no budgetary implications for this position. However, it was suggested that perhaps this could be reviewed by Steering Committee at some point.

8. Update on the Financial Situation (Document US-2007-6-D36)

Dr. O'Brien regained the meeting and resumed his position of Speaker. Although Mr. English was fully prepared to give his presentation, given the late hour and that a special meeting of Senate has been convened for June 15 purposely to review the budget, it was unanimously agreed to defer this item to the June 15 meeting.

9. Remarks from the President

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

Reporting on behalf of the President, Dr. O'Brien mentioned that since the last Senate meeting the Search Committee had met once, on May 10. The Committee is continuing its work and is hoping to have more news to report in the near future.

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

10.1 Reports from Senate Standing Committees

Academic Programs Committee (APC): Dr. Morin indicated that there was nothing further to report but expressed her appreciation to the members of APC for their work during the last year.

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SCAPP): Dr. Singer had nothing further to report.

10.2 Finance Committee (Document US-2007-6-D38): Dr. O'Brien invited Senators to read the written report which had been distributed at the meeting.

Library Committee: Mr. Daoud, a member of the Committee, reported 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.

10.3 Report from Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies regarding the mandate, timeline and membership of the Advisory Committee to Review the School of Graduate Studies (Document US-2007-6-D37)

Dr. Dandurand informed Senators that in light of the abolition of the position of the Dean of Graduate Studies, she had set up an advisory committee to review the mandate and governance structure of the School of Graduate Studies, as more fully set out in Document US-2007-6-D37. The Committee is scheduled to begin meeting in June, and the summer months will be used mainly to conduct benchmarking. Until such time that a new governance structure is adopted by Senate and the Board, she will be assuming the role and duties which were incumbent upon the Dean.

10.3 Update on the search for a Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Dr. Singer reported that the Committee had met on May 5, at which time it retained the external consultants, discussed advertising and the position profile and set up a meeting schedule for the Fall. The Committee is aiming to make a recommendation to the Board at its December meeting.

10.4 Update on the search for a Director of Libraries

Dr. Singer informed Senators that the Committee had held its first meeting this morning, during which it selected the external consultants, established a calendar of meeting dates and began discussions on the advertisement and position profile.

10.5 Update on the Transition Committee of the School of "General Studies"

Dr. Singer reported that the Transition Committee meets regularly. Its next scheduled meeting is in early June.

11. Question period

Indicating that the Ontario Student Assistance Program requires students to be registered for 15 credits to receive financial assistance as full-time students, Mr. Juma opined that this is problematic during the Summer because Concordia allows students to register for no more than 12 credits during that period. Therefore, this rule hinders Ontario students who are studying at Concordia in their ability to receive financial assistance. Dr. Morin responded that this rule was instituted because there are so few summer courses and the University is trying to achieve a balance. Dr. Singer added that, nonetheless, cases can be dealt with on an individual basis.

Dr. Singer responded to questions with regards to the moving date of the Centre for Mature Students.

12. Other business

On behalf of Dr. Morin, Dr. Singer informed Senate that Dr. Peter Grogono was awarded the first "President's Award for Teaching Excellence" at The Spirit of Inquiry conference held from May 14 to 16.

Mr. Daoud was pleased to convey that the Concordia Entrepreneurship and Management Association (CEMA) and the Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE) Concordia team recently attended the Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship National Exposition in Toronto and participated in the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) National Entrepreneurship Competition. He underlined that two of the team members were nominated for awards, namely Student Leader of the Year and Project Manager of the Year. Moreover, the team's faculty advisor, Prof. Tom O'Connell, was named a John Dobson ACE Fellow for the second year in a row.

14. Next meeting

Dr. O'Brien noted that a special meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, June 15, 2007, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260 on the SGW Campus.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate