

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, June 15, 2007, immediately after
the Closed Session meeting
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Dr. L. Dandurand; Prof. O. Dyens; Mr. Y. El Hamwi; Dean N. Esmail; Dean D. Graham; Mr. B. Hamideh; Mr. S. Jack; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. M. Pugh; 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; Prof. W. Zerges

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

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. L. Blair; Ms. V. Braide; Mr. R. Daoud; Ms. L. Del Vecchio; Prof. A. Hamalian; Ms. A. Henry; M. Jamal; Mr. K. Juma; Ms. K. Kashfi; Prof. R. Kilgour; Prof. E. Mongerson; Prof. N. Nixon; Mr. N. Ornstein; Prof. R. Rudin; Prof. J. Segovia

Non-voting members: Prof. M. Danis; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:23 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2007-7-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Trueman, Lynch), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 25, 2007

R-2007-7-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Stoett), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 25, 2007 be approved.*

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

In response to a query from Prof. Shaver, Dr. Lajeunesse indicated that there had been no developments since the last meeting of the Provost Search Committee.

5. Budget presentation (Documents US-2007-D4 and D5)

Dr. Lajeunesse introduced the topic by stating that Mr. English's presentation was put forward for Senate's comments and that it was based on extensive work as well as the following principles:

- the highest priority is given to academic needs through the creation of a faculty hiring pool;
- the completion of a systematic review of duplication. This is an ongoing process, and its impact is not fully reflected in this budget but will be in the 2008/2009 budget; and
- the continuation of the process of integrating academic priorities within the budgetary decisions in the coming year.

Mr. English began his presentation by summarizing what had occurred during the past year. Of the \$320 million government investment in education, only \$240 million were earmarked for universities. He gave a detailed breakdown of the recurrent and non-recurrent amounts distributed to various universities in the Quebec network. He specified that of the \$90 million distributed in each of 2006/2007 and 2007/2008, Concordia received \$11 million each year. However, the teaching grant is based on the new weighting grid which is derived from costs for 2004/2005. This signifies that future educational developments are funded on the basis of average historical spending.

Mr. English underlined the impact of the changes to the weighting grid, pointing out that Concordia's share of the network FFTE funding decreased from 11.09% under the previous grid to 10.24% under the new grid, which translates into a loss of \$11.5 million per year. Further to a review of the impact of the new funding formula on the other Quebec universities in comparison to their deficit positions, it would appear that the universities with the largest accumulated deficits are the ones most funded under the new grid.

Mr. English continued by outlining the 2007/2008 budget was prepared based on the following assumptions:

- no growth in FTEs (conservative approach);
- a tuition fee increase of \$50 per term, of which only \$35 goes directly to university since \$15 will be clawed back by the government to fund financial aid;
- no benefit from the government reinvestment as explained hereinabove;
- a 1% cost of living increase for Support and Buildings and Grounds;
- incoming exchange students will no longer be funded by the MELS;
- inclusion of a space deficit funding;
- the need to provide for collective agreement increases; and
- increased operational costs such as utilities and contractual services.

The decrease in net budgeted revenues together with the increase in net budgeted expenses result in a preliminary shortfall of over \$15 million in 2007/2008. Mr. English then explained the impact of the Budget Model Review Committee and the Operational Efficiency Review Committee on the 2007/2008 budget process and specified the differences between the previous budget allocation model and the transitional budget allocation model used to prepare the current budget. More specifically, the latter model provides for the funding of overarching priorities at the institutional level on a needs/strategic basis as opposed to a method replicating government funding. He outlined the financial impact of the four overarching academic priorities identified by SCAPP on the budget.

Mr. English reviewed the net increases and cuts to the 2007/2008 budget, culminating in a projected deficit of \$10.4 million which will be presented for approval by the Board of Governors. Further to this presentation, a discussion ensued during which Senators commented on the budget and Mr. English and Dr. Lajeunesse responded to questions, which led to the adoption of the following motion:

R-2007-7-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Peluso), it was unanimously resolved that Senate recognize that the incorporation of a deficit in the range of \$10 million in the budget proposed for the 2007-2008 fiscal year is required first and foremost to support the academic priorities of Concordia University and recommend that the budget be approved.

6. Next meeting (Document US-2007-7-D6)

Dr. O'Brien noted that the next meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, September 21, 2007, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260 on the SGW Campus, as indicated in the schedule of meetings which was circulated with the Senate documentation.

Dr. Lajeunesse underlined that today was a momentous day as it was the last Senate meeting for both the Provost and the Dean of JMSB. He thanked them both for their contributions during their respective tenures.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate