

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, March 20, 2009,
immediately following the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Mr. G. Beasley; Prof. L. Blair; Mr. N. Burke; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Prof. M. Charland; Mr. E. Chivi; Dr. L. Dandurand; Mr. K. Diaz; Dean R. Drew; Prof. L. Dyer; Prof. A. English; Prof. M. Fritsch; Mr. E. Fuchs; Prof. B. Gamoy; Mr. C. Goldfinch; Ms. D. Guy; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. S. Jack; Prof. M. Jamal; Ms. K. Kashfi; Prof. C. Lam; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean J. Locke; Prof. W. Lynch; Mr. W. MacGregor; Prof. S. McSheffrey; Prof. S. Mudur; Prof. N. Nixon; Prof. M. Pugh; Prof. C. Ross; Prof. F. Shaver; Ms. M. Sheppard; Prof. W. Sims; Associate Dean T. Stathopoulos; Prof. P. Stoett; Prof. P. Thornton; Prof. C. Trueman; Ms. S. Turnin; Ms. R. Wilcox; Dean C. Wild; Dr. J. Woodsworth

Non-voting members: Dr. D. Boisvert (*Speaker*); Me B. Freedman; Ms. L. Healey

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. J. Garrido; Dr. D. Graham; Ms. F. Karimi; Prof. S. Lister; Mr. P.R. Osei; Ms. A. Peek; Prof. M. Peluso; Dean S. Sharma; Mr. M.F. Uddin

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

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m. and welcomed all new Senators who were attending their first meeting of Senate.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2009-2-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chaikelson, Pugh), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 16, 2009

R-2009-2-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Stoett), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 16, 2009 be approved.*

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

The Speaker apprised members that, in response to Prof. Peluso's request at the last meeting, a summary report on international partnerships had been prepared by Dr. Dandurand and forwarded by Ms. Tessier to all Senators via email on March 11, 2009.

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2009-2-D2)

R-2009-2-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2009-2-D2, be approved.*

6. Report and recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2009-2-D3)

6.1 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2009-2-D4)

R-2009-2-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Drew), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Document US-2009-2-D4, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-2-D3.*

6.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2009-2-D5)

R-2009-2-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Drew, Lynch), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Document US-2009-2-D5, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-2-D3.*

6.3 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2009-2-D6)

R-2009-2-13 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Wild, Gamoy), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Document US-2009-2-D6, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-2-D3.*

7. Recommendation of the Research Committee regarding the Policy on Conflicts of Interest in Research (Document US-2009-2-D7)

Dr. Dandurand explained that in June 2008 all Canadian universities signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Tri-Council Granting Agencies on the Roles and Responsibilities in the Management of Federal Grants and Awards. Under that agreement, universities must comply with three requirements, namely to have proper control mechanisms for bio-hazardous materials, proper financial management of research grants

and a policy on conflicts of interest in research. While Concordia was compliant with the first two requirements, it did not have in place the aforementioned policy. Dr. Dandurand indicated that the proposal was reviewed twice by the Senate Research Committee and input was sought from CUFA and CUPFA. Moreover, because of the tight deadline imposed for the adoption of the policy, the Associate Deans responsible for research were asked to consult their respective Faculties and provide feedback on the proposal.

A discussion ensued, during which Dr. Dandurand and Me Freedman responded to questions of clarification. It was noted that 80% to 85% of the definitions in the policy were imposed upon the University by the Tri-Council. Several Senators felt that some examples listed on page 3 were too broad as well as the definition of related party. Dr. Dandurand noted that the policy cannot cover all situations but that a Q&A document in relation to the policy will be prepared which will help to clarify issues which are not specifically covered in the policy.

Pursuant to the comments, it was agreed to amend page 3 of the policy as follows:

- add "advance or hinder" to sub-paragraph (ii), in the third line, after the first "interests" as well as "or" at the end of the sub-paragraph;
- delete "or" at the end of sub-paragraph (iii);
- delete sub-paragraph (iv); and
- delete "as well as a friend or former, current or prospective professional associate" from the definition of Related Party.

R-2009-2-14 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Research Committee, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the Policy on Conflicts of Interest in Research, as outlined in Document US-2009-2-D7, as amended.

8. Approval of the revised *Policy on Postdoctoral Fellows* (Document US-2009-2-D8)

Dr. Dandurand noted that the existing policy dates to 2001 and outlined the major changes as follows:

- postdoctoral fellows are considered as trainees instead of employees;
- the policy is more transparent and rigorous;
- registration of postdoctoral fellows is required; and
- more automatic services will be available for postdoctoral fellows.

She explained that the tendency among the majority of Canadian universities is to consider postdoctoral fellows as being fourth cycle students, noting that their relationship is akin to that of a senior student with a supervisor. Moreover, the term "trainee" has been deemed appropriate by all the Canadian universities.

Pursuant to a comment, it was agreed to amend the text in the second line of the Preamble on page 1 by deleting "trained" after "As" and by adding "in training" after "researchers".

A discussion ensued, during which Dr. Dandurand responded to questions. Overall, Senators were supportive of the new policy but several felt that clarification was needed in

relation to issues of intellectual property and the mechanisms for conflict resolution. While understanding the issues raised by Senators, Me Freedman advised against “wordsmithing” on the floor of Senate. He suggested that Senate adopt the policy and undertook to provide Senate with a copy of the Postdoctoral Guidelines once they have been revised, noting that they will deal with and clarify the issues raised today.

R-2009-2-15 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, Senate approve the Policy on Postdoctoral Fellows, as outlined in Document US-2009-2-D8, as amended.*

9. Proposal to establish the School of Canadian Irish Studies (Document US-2009-2-D9)

Dean Locke said that the Faculty of Arts and Science currently has five interdisciplinary colleges and is proposing to adding a sixth by converting the existing Centre for Canadian Irish Studies into an academic unit entitled School of Canadian Irish Studies.

Senate was amenable to grant speaking privileges to Dr. Michael Kenneally, Director of the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies, and Dr. Ronald Rudin, Chair of the Canadian Irish Studies Committee. Dr. Rudin specified that the purpose of converting the Centre into a School was twofold. Externally, this is an opportunity to signal the progress and significant growth of Irish Studies. Internally, the creation of a School will provide flexibility and autonomy to allow Irish Studies to become an interdisciplinary area of teaching and research as well as the ability to develop new programs and provide input in the development of the Faculty.

A discussion ensued, during which Dean Locke as well as Drs. Rudin and Kenneally responded to questions focused primarily on the budgetary implications of establishing a new academic unit and the costs of sustaining faculty within it.

R-2009-2-16 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Locke, Blair), it was unanimously resolved that (Chaikelson and Sims requesting that their abstention be recorded into the Minutes), upon recommendation of the Arts and Science Faculty Council and the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the establishment of the School of Canadian Irish Studies, as set out in Document US-2009-2-D9.*

10. Report and recommendations of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities regarding proposed changes to Senate Operating Procedures (Documents US-2009-2-D14 and D15)

On behalf of the Provost, Dean Wild outlined SCAPP’s rationale with respect to its position regarding the adoption of a consent agenda and the setting of a two-hour time limit for Senate meetings.

Prof. Ross reminded Senators that his suggestion a few years ago to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review Senate governance arose from his wish to stimulate debate on the floor of Senate. However, he felt that some of the proposed changes deal with form rather than substance and would have an effect contrary to the one he was seeking. Thus, he proposed three amendments as follows:

Duration of meetings (Section E on page 2 of Document US-2009-2-D15)

Prof. Ross reiterated the view expressed by several Senators at the last meeting that Senate meetings should not be subject to any time limit. He moved, seconded by Prof. Jamal, that no time limit be imposed on Senate meetings and that accordingly Section E be deleted from the document. This amendment was approved by a majority.

Question Period (Section F on page 3 of Document US-2009-2-D15)

Prof. Ross opined that Senators should be free to ask questions from the floor of Senate and that the obligation to provide written questions would stifle debate. He moved that Section F be amended to state that written answers must be provided to written questions. This amendment, seconded by Prof. Chaikelson, was adopted by a majority.

Consent Agenda (Section D on page 2 of Document US-2009-2-D15)

Prof. Ross restated the view adopted at the January meeting. Accordingly, he moved, seconded by Mr. Goldfinch, to add “with the proviso that proposals for new academic programs shall not be placed on the Consent Agenda” immediately after “discussion” in the first phrase of Section D, thereby rendering moot the addition of the proposed second paragraph. This amendment was approved by a majority.

The vote was then taken on the main motion.

R-2009-2-17 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Wild, Jamal), it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities, Senate approve the revisions to the Senate Operating Procedures, as detailed in Document US-2009-2-D15 as amended; and that the revisions take effect as of the 2009/2010 academic year.*

11. Report of other Senate Standing Committees

11.1 Finance (Document US-2009-2-D10)

11.2 Library (Document US-2009-2-D11)

No questions were asked on these reports.

12. CSU proposal regarding digital course offerings (Document US-2009-2-D12)

Mr. Goldfinch presented the rationale behind the CSU motion, specifying that its main objective is to promote digital course reserves over paper course packs, as a more sustainable alternative that would also save students money. He noted that the motion was drafted in collaboration with the Provost and the University Librarian. Further to a question, Mr. Beasley replied that he was at ease with the motion and that he had been mandated because the Libraries are naturally engaged in the collection and dissemination of information and materials, and therefore the University Librarian is well placed to conduct this investigation.

R-2009-2-18 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Goldfinch, Kashfi), it was unanimously resolved:*

Whereas Moodle and other course management systems have proven to be a sound investment and well received by Concordia faculty and students, streamlining the educational process and providing a platform for discussion boards, distribution of course materials and more;

Whereas these systems may not currently be utilized to their full potential by all faculty members;

Whereas their more universal use could save student money and save paper;

Whereas the Concordia Libraries have made bold and appreciated steps forward in offering digital options to students, wherein expanded use of electronic journals and the course reserves system offer students simplified academic options, and participation in initiatives such as the Canadian Research Knowledge Network has increased access to licensed materials while increasing savings; and

Whereas the CSU is advocating the cultivation and creation of a “Digital Alternatives” culture at Concordia University, that encourages digital alternatives as a choice whenever possible, for the reasons of savings, progress and sustainability; “Digital when possible, but not necessarily Digital”;

Be it resolved that Senate request that the University Librarian investigate means by which faculty members might be encouraged to take advantage of digital alternatives to paper course packs, and supported in their efforts to do so, and provide a report with specific recommendations to the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities (SCAPP) in time for it to be transmitted by SCAPP to Senate for consideration at the May meeting of Senate.

13. Update of the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science

On behalf of Dr. Graham, Dr. Boisvert reported that the Advisory Search Committee had met to consider the written comments submitted by members of the community as well as its own collective assessment of the three candidates.

14. Remarks from the President (Document US-2009-2-D13)

In addition to her written report, Dr. Woodsworth apprised Senators that Dr. Michael Kenneally was honoured for his community service at the St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal luncheon held on March 17, 2009. She commended the participants in the *5 Days for the Homeless* campaign who did exceptionally well in raising funds for the homeless, noting that this demonstrates the extent of the engagement and commitment of the Concordia community. She also praised Concordia student John Philip Neufeld who made international headlines for his role in averting a tragedy by alerting police of a potential school attack in Norfolk, U.K. The President congratulated Concordia alumnus Gabriel Bran Lopez who was one of the four finalists in CBC’s *Canada’s Next Great Prime Minister* competition in a nationally televised debate aired on March 18, 2009.

In closing, she apprised Senators of her attendance at the Donor and Student Recognition Cocktail held on March 19, 2009. Over 400 people were present, including donors from among members of the Board of Governors, faculty, staff and industry. This was an inspiring and gratifying event which allowed her an opportunity to meet with students and thank donors.

15. Items for information

Ms. Healey reminded Senators of the March 31 deadline for the nominations for the Spring convocation medals and prizes. Nomination forms are available at the Office of the Registrar as well as the Office of the Dean of Students on both campuses and can also be obtained from the Secretaries of the Faculty Councils.

Mr. Burke encouraged Senators to visit the exhibition at the McCord Museum entitled *Being Irish O'Quebec*, under the direction of Lorraine O'Donnell, guest curator of the exhibit and Coordinator of the Quebec English-Speaking Community Research Network, housed in the School of Extended Learning.

In light of the ongoing CSU elections, Ms. Kashfi asked professors to be accommodating in allowing campaigners a few minutes at the beginning of the class to speak to students.

Prof. Hamalian urged everyone to look at the exhibition currently on display in the Libraries. Mr. Beasley thanked Prof. Hamalian for her comment and said that he would pass it on to the exhibition team.

16. Question period

Further to a question from Prof. Ross with respect to the process approval of the strategic plan, the President indicated that an update on the strategic planning process framework will be presented to the Board on March 23, including data and assumptions. The next version of the plan will include recommendations from the Presidential Panels and will provide for goals and specific actions. The next draft of the plan will be made available before the April 17 Senate meeting to collect comments in order to finalize the draft which will be presented at the May Senate meeting for endorsement. Board approval of the plan will be sought at the June Board meeting.

Further to a query from Dr. Hamalian, Dr. Woodsworth indicated that the data and charts to be presented to the Board will later be made available to Senate.

Prof. Sims wondered how the signatures areas in the Faculty of Arts and Science relate to the strategic plan. Dr. Woodsworth responded that the strategic plan will refer to signature areas, the research plan, a financial plan, a community relations plan, etc. to be developed as part of the implementation phase. The strategic plan will set broad directions, provide examples of specific actions and also include a series of measurements to track progress.

17. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

18. Next meeting

The Speaker noted that the next meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate