

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, May 8, 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; Prof. L. Dyer; Prof. M. Fritsch; Prof. B. Gamoy; Prof. J. Garfin; Prof. J. Garrido; Mr. C. Goldfinch; Dr. D. Graham; 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; Mr. P.R. Osei; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. M. Pugh; Prof. C. Ross; Dean S. Sharma; Ms. M. Sheppard; Prof. W. Sims; Associate Dean T. Stathopoulos; Prof. P. Stoett; Prof. C. Trueman; Dean C. Wild; Dr. J. Woodsworth

Non-voting members: Ms. K. Assayag; Dr. D. Boisvert (*Speaker*); Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Me B. Freedman; Ms. L. Healey

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. K. Diaz; Dean R. Drew; Prof. A. English; Mr. E. Fuchs; Ms. D. Guy; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. S. Jack; Ms. F. Karimi; Prof. S. Lister; Ms. A. Peek; Prof. F. Shaver; Prof. P. Thornton; Ms. S. Turnin; Mr. M.F. Uddin; Ms. R. Wilcox

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2009-4-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Garrido, Kashfi), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 17, 2009

R-2009-4-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Nixon, Garrido), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open session meeting of April 17, 2009 be approved.*

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

There was no business arising not included on the Agenda.

5. Report and recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2009-4-D4)

5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum – School of Extended Learning (Document US-2009-4-D5)

Dr. Graham said that APC had considered at length Senators' comments from the last meeting. The proposal now before Senate is consistent with the proposals originating from the Faculties which have a well-honed process for testing courses. APC wants the courses offered on a trial basis. If they are successful, they will be presented to Senate for approval as regular courses. Dr. Graham then moved a motion, seconded by Dean Locke, to acknowledge Senate's delegation to APC of the power to review curriculum matters and to approve the curriculum proposal regarding the slot course headings. A motion to divide the above motion, moved by Prof. Chaikelson and seconded by Prof. Lynch, was approved by a majority.

A discussion ensued with regard to the first motion, during which it was opined that the approval of slot courses should be discussed at Council meetings because of the wide representation of their membership. In response to that concern, it was noted that the School of Extended Learning Curriculum Committee comprises faculty members from all Faculties. Moreover, APC is the ideal body to review the curriculum proposals originating from the School's Curriculum Committee until such time that its own council is created, given that each Faculty is ably and well represented on APC by one Associate Dean with responsibility for curriculum and one faculty member. The process of creating the Council of the School of Extended Learning is advancing satisfactorily, and it is expected that the Council will be established and operational by the Fall.

Pursuant to a comment about the variability of the approval process of slot courses from one Faculty to another, Dr. Graham indicated that he would ask Vice-Provost Dyens to look into this situation.

R-2009-4-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Locke), it was resolved by a majority that Senate formally acknowledge its delegation to the Academic Programs Committee of the power to consider and recommend to Senate all matters pertaining to the academic programs, regulations and courses of the School of Extended Learning until such time as the Council of the School of Extended Learning is operational following the approval of its creation by Senate and the Board of Governors.

During the discussion in connection with the second motion, concerns voiced at the last meeting regarding the transferability of the credits of complementary university credit courses to a degree certificate or program were restated, further to which Dr. Graham confirmed that the credits from those courses are not transferable and that an explicit notation to this effect will be included in the class schedule. In the event that those courses become regular offerings, it will be up to each Faculty to decide whether or not the credits can be transferred. He added that until such time as the Council of the School of Extended Learning is created, all SEL slot course descriptions will be brought to Senate for information. Moreover, while slot courses are not currently listed in the calendar, they will be in the event that they are approved by Senate as regular offerings.

Dean Burke confirmed that slot courses SEL 197A, SEL 198A and SEL 198B would be offered only twice and then presented to Senate for approval should it be deemed advisable that they become permanent offerings. Prof. Chaikelson requested that this confirmation be noted into the Minutes. Dean Burke also explained that the pedagogy and time required for SEL 197A requires 60 hours rather than 45, rendering it a 4-credit course.

R-2009-4-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the School of Extended Learning, set out in Document US-2009-4-D5, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-4-D4.*

6. Report of other Senate Standing Committees

6.1 Academic Planning and Priorities

Dr. Graham indicated that the report of the May 6 meeting will be included in the documentation for the next meeting.

6.2 Finance (Document US-2009-4-D6)

Further to a question, Prof. Sims said that the comment in the third paragraph of the report about the loading of Senate committees with senior management was made in the context of a request by SCAPP to comment on proposed changes to the structure of Senate standing committees.

6.3 Library

The Library Committee has not met since the last Senate meeting.

6.4 Research (Document US-2009-4-D7)

There were no questions on this report.

7. Report on digital alternatives to paper coursepacks (Document US-2009-4-D8)

Mr. Beasley briefly presented his report and thanked those individuals, and in particular Ms. Lina Lipscombe, Director of the Bookstore and Computer Store, for providing him with the relevant information. The report contains several recommendations which aim to reduce the amount of paper as well as the cost of coursepacks for students. He apprised Senate that the Secretary-General has agreed to convene a stakeholder task force to review the recommendations and report to Senate with respect to the feasibility of their implementation.

Mr. MacGregor stated two elements in the report of paramount concern to students. First, the additional fee which would be charged by COPIBEC for granting digital rights is seemingly arbitrary and this should be carefully considered when the contract between CREPUQ and COPIBEC is eventually renegotiated. Secondly, the Library already has copyright licenses for much of the digital material in its collection and in these cases students should not have to pay for copyright a second time.

8. School of Graduate Studies representation on Senate for 2009/2010

In response to a query, Dr. Dandurand said that, given the University's financial situation, the discussion of the appointment of a Dean of Graduate Studies is ongoing with the President.

R-2009-4-10 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Locke), it was unanimously resolved:

Whereas Senate resolved, at its meeting of May 2, 2008, that the seat on Senate for the position of the Dean of Graduate Studies be occupied by Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Ted Stathopoulos until the end of the 2008/2009 academic year or until such time that a Dean and Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies will have been appointed, whichever comes first; and

Whereas the aforementioned position has not been appointed;

Be it resolved that the seat on Senate for the position of the Dean of Graduate Studies be occupied by Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Ted Stathopoulos until the end of the 2009/2010 academic year or until such time that a Dean and Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies will have been appointed, whichever comes first.

9. Presentation on 2007/2008 course costing exercise

Mr. English noted that his presentation will provide data that has been derived during the 2007/2008 course costing exercise. This type of data can be very valuable and can help to inform the decision-making and planning process.

The detailed results from this exercise will provide the University with meaningful and timely information that will support the University in making strategic decisions pertaining to areas such as budget allocation and other resource allocation, workload, including the impact of remissions granted for research or administration, average class sizes and classroom use.

In the course of his presentation, Mr. English reviewed the key concepts and assumptions used, looked at the financial data, defined and explained the teaching capacity and workload distribution, focusing on average sections assigned to and taught by tenured faculty members, class size and the full-time versus part-time faculty ratio.

Following his presentation, Mr. English responded to questions of clarification, noting that a copy of his presentation would be forwarded to Senators by Ms. Tessier and posted on the [Senate website](#).

10. Presentation on comparative university spending trends

Mr. English indicated that the purpose of this presentation was two-fold: to determine if the University's allocation model has favored the administrative sector over the last four years

and to compare its spending trends with those of selected universities and the network average for the 2006/2007 year.

He prefaced his presentation by noting that the budget and expense data have been modified to exclude expenses in relation to interest, comprehensive campaign, exceptional payments, and retroactive salary payments with regard to the settlement of collective agreements. He then showed the evolution in Concordia's budget distribution from 2005/2006 to 2008/2009 by spending category (teaching and research, teaching and research support, administration, and building and grounds), followed by the spending for those categories in 2006/2007 by other selected Quebec universities. He compared the data regarding the distribution of teaching versus non-teaching salaries for Concordia and other universities, the distribution of the direct teaching salary costs and the distribution of salaries paid for non-teaching support by spending category.

In conclusion, Concordia's spending does not differ significantly from that of other universities when structural differences are considered. Mr. English apprised Senators that a copy of this presentation would also be forwarded to Senators by Ms. Tessier and posted on the [Senate website](#).

11. Remarks from the President

Given the lateness of the hour, the President waived her remarks.

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

Dr. Graham apprised Senate that a recommendation would be submitted at the May Board meeting.

13. Items for information

Dean Burke invited Senators to attend two events organized by the School of Extended Learning on May 20 and 21, the details of which were given in a flyer placed before them.

14. Question period

Prof. Dyer asked that, when presented to Senate, the SCAPP report on the membership and mandates of the Senate Standing Committees identify the changes being proposed and include a rationale.

In reference to Mr. English's presentation on the comparative spending trends, Prof. Ross was surprised that the cost attributable to the administration category and that of the teaching and research both increased at the same rate over the four year period, about 20%.

Mr. English responded that he had no explanation other than general growth. The President added that ever-increasing reporting requirements by governments have caused universities to hire additional personnel.

Further to a question by Prof. Lynch, Dr. Woodsworth indicated that the Agenda of the next meeting will include a presentation on the proposed 2009/2010 operating budget as well as a report of the Finance Committee commenting on it.

15. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

16. Next meeting

The Speaker noted that the next meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, May 22, 2009, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate