

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, May 22, 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; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Prof. M. Charland; Mr. E. Chivi; Dr. L. Dandurand; Mr. K. Diaz; ; Dean R. Drew; Prof. A. English; Mr. E. Fuchs; Prof. B. Gamoy; Prof. J. Garfin; Prof. J. Garrido; Mr. C. Goldfinch; Dr. D. Graham; Ms. D. Guy; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. S. Jack; Ms. K. Kashfi; Prof. C. Lam; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean J. Locke; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. S. Mudur; Prof. M. Peluso; Dean S. Sharma; Prof. F. Shaver; Associate Dean T. Stathopoulos; Prof. P. Stoett; Prof. P. Thornton; Prof. C. Trueman; Ms. S. Turnin; 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. N. Burke; Prof. L. Dyer; Prof. M. Fritsch; Prof. M. Jamal; Ms. F. Karimi; Prof. S. Lister; Mr. W. MacGregor; Prof. S. McSheffrey; Prof. N. Nixon; Mr. P.R. Osei; Ms. A. Peek; Prof. M. Pugh; Prof. C. Ross; Ms. M. Sheppard; Prof. W. Sims; Mr. M.F. Uddin; Ms. R. Wilcox

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2009-5-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Drew, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 8, 2009

R-2009-5-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Peluso, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open session meeting of May 8, 2009 be approved.*

4. Endorsement of the Strategic Plan (Document US-2009-5-D4)

Dr. Woodsworth outlined the revisions made to the document as a result of comments made by Senators at the April Senate meeting, adding that she had received no other comments since that meeting. She thanked those who had provided their input throughout the process and noted that the last phase is the development of the implementation plans.

A discussion ensued, during which Dr. Woodsworth took note of some additional suggestions and responded to questions of clarification. Senators congratulated the President and commended her for the consultative nature of the process. It was also noted that the plan lays out in a realistic manner what Concordia can aspire to.

R-2009-5-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stoett, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that Senate endorse Document US-2009-5-D4 "Reaching Up, Reaching Out : A Strategic Plan for Concordia University 2009-2014" and recommend that it be forwarded the Board of Governors for its approval.*

5. Establishment of the Council of the School of Extended Learning (Document US-2009-5-D5)

In light of the School's mission and given that the School of Extended Learning does not have any faculty of its own, Dr. Graham indicated that the proposed membership and mandate was modelled more closely on that of the School of Graduate Studies and had been vetted by Me Freedman.

Some Senators questioned the number of full-time faculty members and their method of appointments, further to which it was agreed that the membership be amended to replace the phrase "One (1) full-time faculty member or librarian, appointed for a three-year term by the Concordia University Faculty Association" with "Four (4) full-time faculty members, one from each Faculty, each appointed for a three-year term by their respective Faculty". Moreover, since it was generally felt that the representation on the Council should resonate with the School's mandate, Senators were amenable to adding a proviso that its membership be reviewed by Senate in three years.

R-2009-5-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Council of the School of Extended Learning, as outlined in Document US-2009-5-D5 as amended, with the proviso that Senate review the Council's membership in three years.*

6. Report and recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2009-5-D6)

Provost Graham noted that the graduate curriculum changes in the Department of Physics will be implemented effective in September 2009 rather than September 2010 as indicated. As a result, it was agreed that Documents US-2009-5-D6 and D9 be revised accordingly.

6.1 Major undergraduate curriculum – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2009-5-D7 and D8)

R-2009-5-10 *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 Documents US-2009-5-D7 and D8, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-5-D6 (revised).*

6.2 Major graduate curriculum – Faculty of Arts and Science (Document US-2009-5-D9)

R-2009-5-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Locke), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Document US-2009-5-D9 (revised), be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-5-D6 (revised).*

6.3 Major graduate curriculum – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2009-5-D10)

Dean Wild responded to queries in relation to the resource implications relative to the new MA in Creative Arts Therapies – Music Therapy Option. Dr. Graham apprised Senate that APC is working towards developing a more rigorous course costing method for programs and undertook to follow up on this matter with Vice-Provost Dyens, Serge Bergeron and Brad Tucker.

R-2009-5-12 *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-2009-5-D10, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-5-D6 (revised).*

6.4 Major graduate curriculum – John Molson School of Business (Documents US-2009-5-D11 to D14)

R-2009-5-13 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Sharma), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, set out in Documents US-2009-5-D11 to D14, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-5-D6 (revised).*

6.5 Common course outline (Document US-2009-5-D15)

Dr. Boisvert specified that this item was presented for information purposes.

7. Report of other Senate Standing Committees

7.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2209-5-D16)

No questions were asked in relation to this report.

7.2 Finance (Document US-2009-5-D17)

No questions were asked in relation to this report.

7.3 Library

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

7.4 Research

The Research Committee had not met since the last Senate meeting.

8. 2009/2010 budget presentation (Document US-2009-5-D18)

The President prefaced Mr. English's power point presentation. The University is chronically underfunded, and this has been compounded by the change in the funding formula. Tuition in Quebec is capped and is on the low side compared to the other provinces. The situation is further compounded by rising costs and the economic downturn. For 2008/2009, the University ended the year with a deficit of \$2.5 million, which is less than originally anticipated since some savings were achieved, bringing its accumulated deficit to \$13 million. While Concordia's accumulated deficit is significantly lower than that of some other Quebec universities, Dr. Woodsworth noted that its capital debt of \$255 million exceeds the accumulated deficits of those other universities, resulting in a yearly interest repayment of \$13.5 million.

The President mentioned that before beginning the 2009/2010 year the University faced a structural deficit of \$6 million representing the difference between what Concordia receives from the government for cost of living increases and what it pays to its employees in virtue of the various collective agreements. In developing the 2009/2010 budget, it was decided to be financially prudent while being coherent with our goals. Accordingly, investments will be made in emerging strategic priorities and a strategic fund of \$500 K will be established to provide seed funding for initiatives flowing from the Strategic Plan. Competitive salaries will be offered to ensure retention of faculty, and faculty hiring will continue but at lower rate to replace departures or retirements.

The 2009/2010 budget provisions include planning an increase of 500 weighted FTEs primarily in the graduate cycles, increasing the tuition fees in two deregulated areas (tuition fees for international students in some JMSB and ENCS programs with an reinvestment up to 20% towards improving student support), eliminating the acceptance of credit cards for the payments of tuition fees, seeking and exploiting operational efficiencies and applying small selected sectoral cuts.

Dr. Woodsworth completed her commentary by apprising Senate that the Foundation had incurred a loss as a result of the economic downturn. In light of the University's objective to enhance student experience, the decision was made to protect the student scholarships and bursaries supported by the Foundation and to maintain the same level of commitment for student aid and scholarships in the new cycle. As a result, the University will absorb the Foundation's shortfall of \$6 million and honor its commitment of a 5% payout for the 2009/2010 year.

Mr. English made a power point presentation which translated the elements underlined by the President into numbers in connection with the financial and political context, the structural deficit, the deficit reduction measures and the 2009/2010 budget provisions. He

also showed slides on the international tuition fees charged to administration and engineering students at Concordia compared to those charged by other universities. Mr. English concluded his presentation by apprising Senate that a projected deficit of \$5.144 million for 2009/2010 will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

A discussion ensued, during which Mr. English responded to questions of clarification in connection with some budget lines. Several student Senators voiced concerns regarding the impact of the elimination of the option to pay tuition fees by credit cards, more particularly for out-of-province and international students, as well as the deregulation of the international student tuition fees in JMSB and ENCS programs. A concern was also expressed about the lack of division of the academic budget.

9. Remarks from the President (Document US-2009-5-D19)

The President noted that her written report contained the details of her many on and off-campus activities. She urged Senators to attend the upcoming Convocation ceremonies which will be held on June 7, 8 and 9. Accompanied by Associate Vice-President Russell Copeman, she met with Minister of Education Michelle Courchesne on May 15 who took note of some of the issues raised with respect to Concordia's funding challenges. She concluded her remarks by encouraging faculty members to participate in Concordia's Annual Memorial Golf Tournament which will be held on August 18. All proceeds go to bursaries.

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

Dr. Graham apprised Senate that the contract with the preferred candidate had now been signed and that the recommendation would be submitted at the May Board meeting.

11. Items for information

There were no items for information.

12. Question period (Document US-2009-5-D20)

Dr. Dandurand responded to questions of clarification in regard to the CRC allocation referred to in her written response to Prof. Chaikelson's question. While she had responded specifically to the information requested by Prof. Chaikelson regarding additional chairs, she took note of Prof. Chaikelson's additional questions and indicated that she would send her the information. In response to a question from Prof. Lynch, Dr. Dandurand recognized that she was late in submitting a final proposal of the interim framework for research chairs but indicated her intention of seeking Senate's approval in the Fall.

In response to further clarification sought by Prof. Chaikelson, Mr. Di Grappa specified that while the FC Smith Auditorium will remain under the purview of the Theatre Department and may be used to hold special events when no other adequate space is available, it will nonetheless remain available for classroom use.

13. Election of the Speaker of Senate

Dr. Boisvert left the meeting, and Dr. Woodsworth took over as Speaker. She indicated that Steering Committee had nominated the incumbent, Dr. Donald Boisvert, who had graciously

agreed to continue to serve as Speaker for the next academic year. No other nominations had been received further to the call of nominations that was issued in April.

R-2009-5-14 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Woodsworth, Shaver), it unanimously resolved:*

That Dr. Donald L. Boisvert be acclaimed Speaker of Senate for the 2009/2010 academic year; and

That Senate express its appreciation to Dr. Boisvert his skillful chairmanship of Senate as well as his willingness to continue as Speaker.

14. Other business

Given that this was the last meeting that Prof. Locke would be attending in her capacity as Dean of the Faculty of Arts of Science, Prof. Hamalian wished to acknowledge the excellent job done by Prof. Locke during her tenure as Interim Dean while continuing to perform her duties as Associate Dean, Academic Programs. This sentiment was echoed by Dr. Graham, further to which the following motion was adopted.

R-2009-5-15 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Hamalian, Graham), it unanimously resolved that Senate express its appreciation to Prof. Joanne Locke for her leadership of the Faculty of Arts and Science during her tenure as Interim Dean.*

15. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, September 18, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate