

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, September 18, 2009,
immediately following the Closed Session meeting,
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Mr. G. Beasley; Prof. M. Charland; Mr. E. Chevrier; Prof. R. Cross; Mr. A. Dabchy; Dr. L. Dandurand; Prof. M. Debbabi; Ms. S. Dolatshahi; Prof. D. Douglas; Dean R. Drew; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Prof. L. Dyer; Prof. J. Garfin; Dr. D. Graham; Prof. J. Grant; Ms. K. Gregor; Mr. R. Hafiz; Prof. M. Jamal; Mr. G. Johannson; Mr. Z. Khan; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean B. Lewis; Mr. Z. Ling; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. S. McSheffrey; Prof. S. Mudur; Prof. B. Nelson; Mr. P.R. Osei; Prof. L. Ostiguy; Prof. M. Paraschivoiu; Mr. D. Perera; Prof. H. Proppe; Prof. M. Pugh; Ms. D. Roldan; Dean S. Sharma; Prof. F. Shaver; Ms. S. Siriwardhana; Associate Dean T. Stathopoulos; Prof. P. Stoett; Prof. P. Thornton; Ms. S. Turnin; Dean C. Wild; Prof. B. Woodside

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

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. N. Burke; Prof. A. English; Prof. M. Fritsch; Mr. G. Giannis; Prof. M. Peluso; Ms. E. Perkins; Prof. W. Sims; Dr. J. Woodsworth

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

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

2. Introduction to Senate (Document US-2009-6-D2)

Dr. Boisvert noted that a document prepared by Ms. Tessier had been included with the documents, together with a copy of the Senator's Handbook. He underlined the importance for all Senators to read both documents and contact Ms. Tessier should they have any questions.

He highlighted some elements in the Senate procedures which differ from last year's practices. With respect to written questions, priority will be given to questions submitted in

writing and brought to the attention of Senate Steering Committee. The dates of those meetings are included in the Handbook. However, in the absence of written questions or should the list of written questions be exhausted prior to the 15-minute time limit for question period, he shall call for questions from the floor.

In connection with the Consent Agenda, Dr. Boisvert indicated that it is not intended to prevent discussion but is used to allow Senate to complete a number of routine or non-controversial matters quickly. The use of Consent Agendas is more and more prevalent in many universities. Items that are typically included on Consent Agendas are the approval of Minutes, committee appointments, routine curriculum changes, reports submitted for information, etc., provided that the documentation regarding these items is forwarded to members in advance of the meeting. Items included on the Consent Agenda will not be discussed and will be approved by way of one omnibus motion. However, any item may be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda further to the request of any two voting members of Senate.

The Speaker reiterated that the discussion and material of the Closed Session meetings are confidential and that once a matter has been discussed and disposed of, it remains confidential and Senators should not disclose or discuss any such matter with any other individual who is not a member of Senate. However, exceptionally some matters approved in Closed Session and over which Senate has final purview may be divulged by the relevant authority during the Open Session which follows or publicly-announced shortly thereafter. However, the discussion in relation thereto is never in the public domain.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Graham informed Senators of a change to Document US-2009-6-D4 under item 4.

R-2009-6-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Dabchy), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved, and that items 4 to 6, be approved, confirmed or received for information by consent.

CONSENT

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 22, 2009

R-2009-6-5 The Minutes of the Open session meeting of May 22, 2009 were approved by consent.

5. Report of Senate Standing Committees

5.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2009-6-D3)

The above report was received for information.

5.2 Academic Programs

5.3 Finance

5.4 Library

5.5 Research

The above committees have not met since the last Senate meeting.

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2009-6-D4)

R-2009-6-6 *The committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2009-6-D4, as revised, were approved by consent.*

REGULAR

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

8. Election of the faculty members of the Steering Committee

Dr. Boisvert conveyed that the terms of reference of Senate Steering Committee provide for one faculty member from each of the John Molson School of Business (JMSB), the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS) and the Faculty of Fine Arts (FA) and two from the Faculty of Arts and Science (A&S). He gave the instructions in relation to the voting and to the eligibility requirements to sit on Steering Committee.

He added that the JMSB representative, Linda Dyer, was elected by acclamation since she was the only eligible member from that Faculty not teaching at the usual time of Steering Committee meetings. Andrew Dutkewych (FA), Martin Pugh (ENCS) and Peter Stoett (A&S) were elected after the second round of voting, while Frances Shaver was elected as the second representative of A&S after the fourth round of voting.

9. Remarks from the President (Document US-2009-6-D5)

The Speaker pointed out that the President was currently abroad but that her written remarks had been included with the documentation.

10. Items for information

10.1 Annual report from the Academic Hearing Panel (Document US-2009-6-D6)

Dr. Boisvert stated that, as required by the Academic Code of Conduct, the annual report from the Academic Hearing Panel is submitted for information purposes.

Me Freedman responded to questions, noting that while the number of academic charges laid under the Code has increased markedly over the years, there is no comparative data available for the last three years. Efforts are being made by Vice-Provost Dyens and the Associate Deans responsible for student affairs to train and educate students and instructors about academic integrity.

Further to additional questions, Dr. Graham indicated the number of charges laid against international students is not tracked, but it is clear from the Associate Deans that international students frequently encounter difficulties with the norms applied in North

America. Therefore, there is a duty to educate them as much as possible with respect to the norms, the policies, and the consequences of breaching the Code. Associate Dean Stathopoulos added that the graduate student orientation was held last week, at which time emphasis was placed on training international students on these issues.

11. Question period

In response to questions on the University's handling of a possible H1N1 pandemic, the Provost said that a memorandum would shortly be sent by email to all faculty members through the usual distribution channels (through the Faculties), with some guidelines and a question-and-answer document. In response to a comment about leniency, Dr. Graham stated that professors had already been asked to advise students that evaluation methods might have to be altered in the event of unforeseen circumstances, and that faculty members would also be asked to develop flexible methods of evaluation that would include provision for self-study in the event of a serious pandemic.

Mr. Côté added that email correspondence will also be issued very shortly to all employees with supervisory responsibilities to provide guidance on how to manage the implications of H1N1 in the work environment with their employees. Additionally, every student will be sent an email to provide them with guidelines and referrals for additional information. The University website currently includes general guidelines concerning the H1N1 virus and will be updated as the situation evolves.

Further to other queries, Mr. Côté indicated that while it is safe to say that the level of usage of the Hall Building is higher than originally anticipated when it was first constructed, the occupancy capacity for classrooms is respected and appropriate safety measures are taken throughout the building. For example, the escalators are deliberately stopped from time to time, usually during peak hours to avoid accidents since users tend to gather in large numbers at the top of the escalators.

12. Other business

Dr. Graham urged all Senators to participate in the Shuffle, which will be held on September 25. He also introduced and welcomed Dean of Arts and Science, Dr. Brian Lewis, who was attending his first Senate meeting.

Mr. Dabchy encouraged Senators to attend the lecture of Nobel Peace laureate Dr. Wangari Maathai, which will be held on September 28.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, October 16, 2009, at 2 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate