

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION  
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, October 16, 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; Mr. N. Burke; Mr. E. Chevrier; Mr. A. Dabchy; Dr. L. Dandurand; Prof. M. Debbabi; Prof. D. Douglas; Dean R. Drew; Prof. A. English; Prof. M. Fritsch; Prof. J. Garfin; Mr. G. Giannis; Dr. D. Graham; Prof. J. Grant; Mr. R. Hafiz; Mr. G. Johannson; Prof. G. Kanaan (*Acting Dean in the absence of Dean S. Sharma*); Mr. Z. Khan; Prof. G. Leonard; Mr. Z. Ling; Prof. J. Locke (*Acting Dean in the absence of Dean B. Lewis*); Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. S. Mudur; Prof. B. Nelson; Mr. P.R. Osei; Mr. A. Oster; Prof. M. Paraschivoiu; Prof. M. Peluso; Mr. D. Perera; Ms. E. Perkins; Prof. M. Pugh; Ms. D. Roldan; Prof. C. Ross; Ms. S. Siriwardhana; Associate Dean T. Stathopoulos; Prof. P. Stoett; Prof. P. Thornton; Ms. S. Turnin; Dean C. Wild; Prof. B. Woodside; Dr. J. Woodsworth

Non-voting members: Ms. K. Assayag; D. Boisvert (*Speaker*); Mr. R. Côté (*Acting Vice-President in the absence of Mr. M. Di Grappa*); Ms. A. Fagnoli (*Acting Registrar in the absence of Ms. L. Healey*); Me B. Freedman

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. M. Charland; Prof. R. Cross; Ms. S. Dolatshahi; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Prof. L. Dyer; Ms. K. Gregor; Prof. M. Jamal; Prof. S. McSheffrey; Prof. L. Ostiguy; Prof. H. Proppe; Prof. F. Shaver; Prof. W. Sims

Non-voting members: Mr. L. English

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Speaker apprised Senators that a revised document under item 6, bearing number US-2009-7-D14, was placed before them. Further to a request by Prof. Lynch, supported by Prof. Pugh, for a discussion regarding Document US-2009-7-D7, it was agreed to remove item 4.1 from the Consent Agenda, and following a request by Prof. Thornton, supported by Prof. Grant, it was agreed to remove item 4.3 from the Consent Agenda.

R-2009-7-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session meeting be approved, with the removal of items 4.1 and 4.3 from the Consent section to the Regular section, and that items 3 to 6 (not including items 4.1 and 4.3) be approved, confirmed, or received for information by consent.*

### CONSENT

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 18, 2009

R-2009-7-5 *The Minutes of the Open session meeting of September 18, 2009 were approved by consent.*

4. Report and recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2009-7-D2)

4.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2009-7-D10)

R-2009-7-6 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science set out in Document US-2009-7-D10, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-7-D2, were approved by consent.*

4.4 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2009-7-D13)

R-2009-7-7 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science set out in Document US-2009-7-D13, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-7-D2, were approved by consent.*

5. Report of other Senate Standing Committees (for information)

- 5.1 Finance
- 5.2 Library
- 5.4 Research

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

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2009-7-D14 (revised))

R-2009-7-8 *The committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2009-7-D14 (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.

4.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2009-7-D3 to D9)

In reference to Document US-2009-7-D7, Prof. Lynch expressed concerns with respect to the deletion of the courses ESL 207, 208 and 209 and its repercussion on students throughout the University who must complete those courses to be able to graduate. Acting Dean Joanne Locke noted that Prof. Lynch was correct, in that about 400 students currently taking ESL 207 will need to complete ESL 208 and 209. Those courses should only be deleted in two years and the aforementioned document will be corrected accordingly.

Prof. Locke clarified that Senate was being asked to approve the deletion of a sequence of courses introduced 20 years ago as well as the creation of four new courses based on the four recognized skill sets (reading, writing, speaking and listening). She explained that newly designed placement tests will triage students into appropriate courses. Moreover, not all students would be required to complete a placement test, only those undergraduates who had not studied for three years in an English-language institution are required to take the test and possibly be placed into ESL. She confirmed that it would be up to each Faculty to decide whether to adopt any part of this new ESL program.

*R-2009-7-9 Upon motion duly made and seconded (Locke, Nelson), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science set out in Documents US-2009-7-D3 to D9, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-7-D2, subject to an amendment to Document US-2009-7-D7 to indicate that courses ESL 208 and 209 will be deleted only for the 2012/2013 calendar year.*

4.3 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business (Documents US-2009-7-D11 and D12)

Prof. Thornton commented on the huge disparity across Faculties with respect to the determination of the status of a Minor and a Major, given that the proposed changes referred to a 12-credit Minor. Acting Dean Kanaan explained that students enrolled in the B. Comm or the B. Admin programs must complete a common set of 14 core courses totaling 42 credits which provide them with the foundations that are necessary to pursue a specific Minor comprised of 12 credits.

*R-2009-7-10 Upon motion duly made and seconded (Kanaan, Ross), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, set out in Documents US-2009-7-D11 and D12, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2009-7-D2.*

8. SCAPP report and recommendation on proposed changes to Senate committees, their memberships, and their mandates (Document US-2009-7-D15)

Dr. Graham conveyed the context in which this report was being presented, reminding Senators that this is the third of the three documents that SCAPP was mandated to prepare, the others being those on Senate's composition and procedures. He noted that this has proved to be the most complex of the three because it required a complex balancing act where committee composition is concerned in relation to adjusting the number of ex-officio and elected members while keeping the committee size relatively small and ensuring quorum.

Dr. Graham outlined the overall changes and conveyed SCAPP's attempt to harmonize the committees in terms of their membership and their presentation by reviewing and altering them in line with comments received at earlier stages of consultation with the committees themselves. In the case of most, an attempt has been made to ensure that Senate will be represented by more than one elected Senator so that committees can be reasonably sure that when reports are discussed at Senate, there are committee members present who can address questions and respond to comments. Moreover, SCAPP has addressed the question of quorum by recommending that certain ex-officio members not count in the determination of quorum. He conducted a page-by-page review of the document, explaining the changes specific to each committee.

Given that several Senators had comments to formulate, Dr. Boisvert proposed that Senate move into a committee of the whole to allow Senators to comment on the report without the need of having a formal motion before the meeting. A discussion ensued, during which the main points made by Senators are summarized hereinafter:

- Concerns were raised that student participation is being diluted on several committees, such as the Academic Programs and the Academic Planning and Priorities, by the addition of administrators or faculty members.
- Discomfort was expressed with the new structure of several committees where administrators form the majority of members. While it was acknowledged that committee recommendations are presented to Senate which has a majority of faculty members and also that these administrators are Senators, it was felt nonetheless that having so many administrators defeats the purpose of the committees which is to give a voice to faculty. Thus, there should be fewer administrators on Senate committees and they should never constitute a majority.
- Disagreement was voiced about the proposal to have some ex-officio members not count towards quorum while having voting privileges.
- Regarding the Research Committee, it should be specified from which constituency the two members-at-large would come from.
- Questions and concerns were raised in relation to the deletion of the two Academic Programs Committee sub-committees, University Writing Test and Undergraduate Scholarships and Awards. In the case of the former, a suggestion was made to delay its abolition until such time that a replacement has been found for the University Writing Test.
- It was suggested that the Associate Deans responsible for research in each Faculty sit on the Research Committee in lieu of the Deans.
- The wording describing the provenance of the three faculty members from A&S on the University Library Committee should be consistent with that of the Distinguished Professor Emeritus Committee.

- The wording relating to the faculty members from JMSB, ENCS & FA on the Distinguished Professor Emeritus Committee should be the same as for all the other committees.
- Given the unlikelihood that a part-time faculty member would ever be elected to certain committees, such as Academic Planning and Priorities, Academic Programs, Finance or Steering, it was suggested that one member-at-large seat for part-time faculty members be reserved on each of those committees.
- Clarification was asked as to whether members-at-large appointed to the Academic Planning and Priorities and Research Committees become regular members during the time of their appointment.
- Discomfort was expressed with the ratification of faculty member appointments by Senate.

Dr. Graham, together with Dr. Stathopoulos who is a member of SCAPP, conveyed the rationale in connection with some of the proposed changes, further to which it was agreed that the comments formulated hereinabove would be summarized and conveyed by the Secretary of Senate to SCAPP for its consideration.

9. Remarks from the President

Dr. Woodsworth noted that Homecoming 2009 opened with the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Shuffle on September 25, which raised \$51,000 this year and over \$900,000 over the past 20 years. Another 25 bursaries will be added to the existing 350. She reviewed other Homecoming events, noting that the Family Fair Day was successful and had been attended by over 1,000 persons from the neighboring Loyola area, despite a very rainy day. She also acknowledged the recent opening of the JMSB building and the announcement of funding of \$68.9 million for three targeted research projects through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

The President encouraged participation at the November 4 President's Conference Series entitled "*Every Breath You Take: Surveillance, Security & the End of Privacy*" and thanked Vice-Provost Dyens for his leadership in organizing this event. She concluded her remarks by underlining the importance for faculty members to attend the November 13 convocation ceremonies.

10. Update from the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Dandurand, the Chair of the Advisory Committee, conveyed that the Committee had met three times so far, to discuss whether or not to hire a search consultant, to select the search consultant and to finalize the profile for ideal candidate. She added that a letter has been forwarded to all faculty members encouraging them to take interest in the search. At its next meeting scheduled for November 26, the Committee will review the long list of candidates.

11. Items for information

Dr. Graham apprised Senators of the compression of this term's examination schedule, noting that it was caused by a combination of increased enrolments and a later than usual

start to the term. He outlined the measures that will be taken to deal with this situation and said that a memo had been sent out to the CSU, the GSA and the Deans for distribution to Department Chairs and faculty members to inform them of the courses of action.

11.1 Annual report from the Office of Rights and Responsibilities (Document US-2009-7-D16)

Dr. Boisvert noted that this report was filed for information purposes, as required by the Code of Rights and Responsibilities.

12. Question period

In response to a question from Prof. Lynch about the status of the interim framework for research chairs, Dr. Dandurand indicated that her estimation of the trial period had been overly optimistic. A meeting was held with the Associate Deans in September, further to which the comments and experiences have been consolidated and the framework will be revised. She hopes that the consultation document will be submitted to Faculty Councils for their review in December.

13. Other business

Mr. Dabchy was pleased to report that the recent lecture of Dr. Wangari Maathai was very well attended and thanked the University, and in particular the office of Vice-President Assayag, for helping in the organization of this event.

14. Next meeting

The Speaker pointed out that, contrary to what was indicated in the schedule of meetings originally sent out, Room EV 2.260 is now available and therefore the next meeting, scheduled to be held on Friday, November 6, 2009, at 2 p.m., will held in its usual location.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate