

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, May 20, 2011, immediately
following the Closed Session meeting
in the Norman D. Hébert, LL.D. Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Mr. G. Alexandar; Mr. G. Beasley; Mr. N. Burke; Prof. J. Camlot; Mr. M. Coleby; Dr. L. Dandurand; Prof. M. Debbabi; Prof. D. Douglas; Dean R. Drew; Prof. L. Dyer; Prof. J. Garfin; Prof. J. Garrido; Dr. D. Graham, Mr. B. Hamideh; Dr. A. Hochstein (*Acting Dean in the absence of Dean S. Sharma*); Dean B. Lewis; Dr. F. Lowy; Ms. H. Lucas; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. M. Magnan; Ms. R. Mehreen; Prof. S. Mudur; Prof. B. Nelson; Prof. C. Nikolenyi; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. C. Ross; Prof. F. Shaver; Mr. R. Sonin; Prof. P. Stoett; Prof. P. Thornton; Prof. H. Wasson; Dean C. Wild; Dr. P. Wood-Adams (*Acting Dean in the absence of Dean G. Carr*)

Non-voting members: Mr. R. Côté; Ms. L. Healey; Mr. P. Kelley; Ms. D. McCaughey

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. H. Abdullahi; Mr. N. Alatawneh; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Mr. E. Chevrier; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Mr. M. Freedman; Mr. D. Gal; Prof. F. Khendek; Prof. G. Leonard; Mr. C. McKinnon; Prof. M. Paraschivoiu; Prof. G. Rail; Prof. R. Reilly; Ms. T. Seminara; Mr. A. Severyns; Prof. W. Sims; Prof. R. Staseson; Mr. J. Suss; Prof. J. Turnbull

Non-voting members: Mr. P. Beauregard; Dr. D. Boisvert (*Speaker*); Mr. B. Freedman

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

R-2011-5-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Magnan, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved, and that items 3 to 8 be approved or received for information by consent.*

CONSENT3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 15, 2011

R-2011-5-7 *The Minutes of the Open session meeting of April 15, 2011 were approved by consent.*

4. Election of the Speaker of Senate for 2011/2012 (Document US-2011-5-D4)

R-2011-5-8 *Dr. Donald Boisvert was declared elected by acclamation as Speaker of Senate for 2011/2012.*

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2011-5-D5)

R-2011-5-9 *The committee appointments, set out in Document US-2011-5-D5, were approved by consent.*

6. Report from the Spectrum Advisory Committee (Document US-2011-5-D6)

This report was provided for information.

7. Report from Senate Standing Committees7.1 Academic Planning and Priorities

This Committee had not met since the last Senate meeting.

7.2 Finance (Document US-2011-5-D7)7.3 Library (Document US-2011-5-D8)7.4 Research (Document US-2011-5-D9)

These reports were provided for information.

8. Report and recommendations from Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2011-5-D10)8.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science8.1.1 Department of Applied Human Sciences (Document US-2011-5-D11)8.1.2 Department of Biology (Documents US-2011-5-D12 and D13)8.1.3 Department of Economics (Document US-2011-5-D14)8.1.4 Department of Education (Document US-2011-5-D15)8.1.5 Department of Philosophy (Document US-2011-5-D16)8.1.6 School of Community and Public Affairs (Document US-2011-5-D17)

R-2011-5-10 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, detailed in Documents US-2011-5-D11 to D17, were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2011-5-D10.*

8.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – School of Extended Learning – Elective credit requirements for certificates (Document US-2011-5-D18)

R-2011-5-11 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the School of Extended Learning, detailed in Document US-2011-5-D18, were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2011-5-D10.*

8.3 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

8.3.1 Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics (Document US-2011-5-D19)

8.3.2 Department of Communication Studies (Document US-2011-5-D20)

8.3.3 Department of Education (Documents US-2011-5-D22 and D23)

R-2011-5-12 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, detailed in Documents US-2011-5-D19, D20, D22 and D23, were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2011-5-D10.*

8.4 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science – Centre for Engineering in Society (formerly General Studies Unit) (Document US-2011-5-D24)

R-2011-5-13 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, detailed in Document US-2011-5-D24, were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2011-5-D10.*

8.5 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts – Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (Document US-2011-5-D25)

R-2011-5-14 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, detailed in Document US-2011-5-D25, were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2011-5-D10.*

REGULAR

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

10. Report and recommendations from Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2011-5-D10)

10.1 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science - Department of Economics (Document US-2011-5-D21)

R-2011-5-15 *Upon motion duly made and seconded (Wood-Adams, Lewis), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, detailed in Document US-2011-5-D21, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2011-5-D10.*

10.2 Transcript Committee recommendations (Documents US-2011-5-D26 to D29)

The summary of Senators' comments and responses to their questions by Dr. Dyens and Ms. Healey is reproduced hereunder:

- While courses taken above the degree requirements will also count towards the cumulative GPA, which will now be the graduation GPA, a student would need to take many courses and obtain high marks in order to significantly raise his or her GPA. One or two additional courses will have no impact.
- The rule regarding the inclusion of the grade of a student's last attempt at a course would continue to apply. Students may normally repeat a course only once. However, a student who wishes to take a course a third time may do so under extenuating circumstances and only after having obtained special permission.
- The recommendations of the Transcript Committee, which included representation from each of the Faculties as well as the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Extended Learning, were widely discussed and approved by the Faculty and School Councils.
- The decision to carry grades for students transferring from one degree to another is not intended to be a punitive measure. Having a different graduation GPA also created some inequities. Individual situations can be addressed on a one-on-one basis.
- Some Senators questioned the rationale of indicating the class size on the transcript instead of the standard deviation which they felt was more appropriate.
- Class size is provided on transcript for all courses together with an indication when the courses are taken electronically.
- The aim of the proposed changes is to be as clear and transparent as possible. The trend in North America and Europe is to provide more fulsome information on transcripts. The principle is to make the student record and the transcript as close as possible. They are currently quite different but the goal is to make them consistent.

R-2011-5-16 *Upon motion duly made and seconded (Graham, Sonin), it was unanimously resolved (Mehreen requesting that her abstention be recorded in the Minutes) that the recommendations of the Transcript Committee, outlined in Document US-2011-5-D26, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2011-5-D10.*

11. Recommendation regarding University recognition of research units (Document US-2011-5-D30)

R-2011-5-17 *Upon motion duly made and seconded (Dandurand, Graham), it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Research Committee, Senate grant the university-recognized status to the research units outlined in Document US-2011-5-D30, in accordance with the Policy on Research Units (VPRGS-8).*

12. Policy for Students on the Accommodations of Religious Observances (Document US-2011-5-D31)

Mr. Côté specified that this document is presented for information and discussion.

Vice-Provost Dyens explained that the University is required by law to accommodate the religious observances of students with respect to the scheduling of evaluative exercises and exams in order to ensure equal treatment of students during the course of the term. He emphasized that students are responsible for informing their instructors in writing no later than one week after the course's DNE deadline and also for obtaining notes or material of any missed class.

A discussion ensued, during which Senators wondered how to deal with students who would forget to submit their request by the deadline. Me Melodie Sullivan noted that instructors should use their best judgment. However, if a student is neglectful and places a last minute request, the instructor might not have the time to create a new exam or organize an alternate evaluation. Students who provide late notice risk creating delays in the completion of their courses and/or program. The University is obliged to accommodate up until it becomes undue hardship.

Dr. Dyens added that the Policy is vague in certain places because it is difficult to determine what is reasonable for each Faculty. The Policy is drafted on the premise of good faith negotiations between a student and an instructor. In most cases, situations are solved between the student and the instructor. However, the Policy provides a process in the case of a disagreement.

In response to further queries, it was pointed out that the list of religious holidays is available at the Birks Student Service Centre and printed in the University calendar. The list includes the holidays for the Christian, Jewish and Muslim religions. Ninety-eight percent of requests come from those three religions.

It was noted that most students are unaware of this Policy and therefore it was agreed that it should be very widely disseminated and also referred to in course outlines.

13. Presentation of the 2011/2012 operating budget (Document US-2011-5-D32)

Mr. Kelley apprised Senate that the Quebec government made an announcement on March 17 with respect to the budget, at which time it indicated that the budget measures would be clarified by MELS on May 20. At the meeting held this morning to which all

Quebec universities were convened, MELS officials indicated that they are not ready but that the rules and definitions will be made within the next 10 days.

Mr. Kelley noted that today's funding is based on the year 2002 CLARDER codes. However, in the future it is anticipated that the funding will be program-based. Moreover, going forward it is clear that MELS wishes to enter into a series of written agreements with universities focused on performance against plan in connection with the following sources of funds:

- Student contributions - increased tuition
- Government contributions – maintenance of core funding and additional funds
- University contributions – increase in some revenues in some targeted areas
- Seeking increased donations.

This means that Concordia will have to compete, in part, with the other universities for the \$530 million in additional revenues commencing in 2011/2012. The budget measures call for an increase in tuition of \$325 per year as of 2012/2013 with a 35% clawback to fund student aid. The forfaitaires charged to non-Quebec students are still under discussion with MELS. However, MELS requires that the additional revenue derived from tuition fee increases be devoted exclusively to quality of teaching and student services and quality of research.

Mr. Kelley outlined the other budget measures stated by MELS regarding competitive positioning of universities, donations, administration and management, noting that each target is subject to a formal agreement which would impact the receipt of the funds if the targets are not met. There is a lack of clarity with respect to many of the terms used by MELS.

He outlined the budget highlights and showed projected budgets for 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 based on projected FTEs, which would result in a small operating surplus before funding the financial obligations in connection with unfunded liabilities and the impact of GAAP.

Further to his presentation, Mr. Kelley responded to questions. With respect to Senate's role in the budget, he noted that the Finance Committee met nine times during the academic year to review a series of matters and that budget updates having an impact on academic operations are included its report.

14. Remarks from the President

Dr. Lowy apprised Senate that Dr. Dandurand is retiring at the end of December. She was appointed as Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies in November 2006, and the research profile has thrived under her leadership. The University was very fortunate to have her among its senior administrators, and she will be missed. Dr. Dandurand thanked Dr. Lowy for his words, noting that her experience at Concordia had been gratifying and rewarding.

Dr. Lowy reported that at a Special Closed Session meeting held on May 12, the Board of Governors overwhelmingly approved a motion of confidence in Board Chair Peter Kruyt. Mr. Kruyt was not present at that meeting.

The search is ongoing for the Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Relations and the Vice-President, Services, and the latter is reaching a point of conclusion.

The External Governance Review Committee is continuing its work and is expected to present its report by the end of June. Dr. Lowy added that the Board is aware that the terms are ending for many of its external members and that retirement is desirable. However, it undertook not to take any action until the recommendations of the External Governance Review Committee have been carefully examined. As a result, external Governors will be asked to stay until the Fall.

With respect to the selection process of the President, Dr. Lowy informed Senate that a notice of motion for the June 23 Board meeting will be forwarded later today to Board members in connection with a proposal from the Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee to amend section C of the *Rules and Procedures for Senior Administrative Appointments* by adding a step prior to the presentation of the candidate to the University community. However, the notice will specify that the motion will only be entertained in the event that the report of the External Governance Review Committee will have been submitted its report by June 22.

Further to this item of Dr. Lowy's report, several Senators commented on the inappropriateness of the motion with respect to its content and its timing. It was felt that the Board was trying to undermine the process and usurp the Advisory Search Committee, that the suggested amendment was in violation of the CUFA Collective Agreement, and that the Board continues to come up with ways to alienate the University community and is not acting in a way which is conducive to healing.

With respect to Dr. Lowy's mention of the Board's vote of confidence in the Board Chair, some Senators commented that they did not share that sentiment.

In response to questions about the proposed amendment, Dr. Lowy explained that it would add a level to the search so that the Board, which is ultimately responsible for the appointment of the President, be in a position to vet the candidate being recommended by the Advisory Search Committee which is mainly populated by members of the internal community. This proposed vetting committee would consist of seven Board members, five of whom would be external members, and none of whom would be on the Advisory Search Committee.

One Senator, while agreeing that the timing was off and specifying that he was not a Board spokesperson, indicated his support of this proposal because it would invest the Board in the selection in a more detailed way without modifying the power of recommendation of the Advisory Search Committee.

15. Response to question posed at last Senate meeting regarding cost of departures and labor disputes

In response to questions asked at the last three Senate meetings concerning the above-noted matters since the year 2000, Mr. Kelley reiterated that, as explained at the March Senate meeting, there were a number of legal issues that had to be sorted through as well as 10 years of data to be reviewed and analyzed regarding the cost of departures.

As a result of confidentiality concerns and the legal requirements concerning the protection of personal information, only global numbers for the time period in question can be presented. He underlined that during the 10-year period in question, Concordia's total payroll and benefit costs were close to \$2.5 billion. The total costs related to the departures of senior administrators (Associate Vice-Presidents and above) during the period was \$4.07 million.

With respect to the costs of labor conflicts, Mr. Kelley conveyed his understanding that this question relates to the costs of the settlement of various labor grievances during the period. Unfortunately, he was unable to provide a response to this question since, in the past, the costs of the settlement of grievances was not monitored centrally since they were charged to the originating departments who paid settlements out of different budget codes and thus there is no way of producing an accurate report in this regard.

That being said, Mr. Kelley confirmed that a mechanism has now been instituted for tracking all costs related to the settlement of grievances going forward and that the costs of any settlements during the period that resulted in the assisted departure of an employee were captured in the response to the first question.

16. Question period

Further to a question from Prof. Peluso, Dr. Graham said that he would be happy to make a presentation next Fall on the status of eConcordia and that he would see what can be done with respect to an update on KnowledgeOne.

Referring to the upcoming UN vote in favor of creating a Palestinian statehood and the 2002 Netanyahu debacle, Prof. Douglas opined that it would be a good idea that the University be proactive in bringing student groups together. Dr. Lowy said he had to think about it.

Prof. Lynch noted that upon verifying the admissions information, it seemed that acceptances were up despite the fact applications were down. Mr. Côté responded that overall there is a strong pool of applicants and an ongoing process to improve the capture rate. The decentralized approval process works well. Dr. Graham added that the admission rate is one variable and applicant quality is another. Regardless of the number of applicants, our capture rate is good.

In response to a query from Prof. Ross with respect to a decision of the of Arts and Science Faculty Council to establish an institute for Israeli Studies, Dean Lewis indicated that this interdisciplinary institute was created at the Faculty level and overall received strong support. He specified that Senate approval is not required at this point since this is not an academic unit and no program is being offered.

Prof. Ross reiterated a question he has been asking the past few years, and more recently at the April 2010 Senate meeting, regarding the difference in the length of time between classes taught during the day and those taught in the evening, the latter being 15 minutes shorter, at which time he was told that this issue was being looked into by a committee in the context of the academic class schedule and the use of existing classroom facilities. Dr. Graham replied that they had chosen to treat the matter in an overall timetable over two years to look at ramifications, further to which many issues emerged. The committee will be reconvened and will be asked to bring forward multi-year plan to resolve or alleviate all identified anomalies to the extent possible for Senate's consideration in the Fall.

17. Items for information

Mr. Côté was pleased to confirm that Dr. Donald Boisvert had been acclaimed Speaker of Senate for 2011/2012. He also welcomed Ms. Laura Stanbra who will be moving into the position of Registrar as of June 30 and underlined that Ms. Linda Healey was attending her last Senate meeting. The President and the Provost spoke highly of Ms. Healey, further to which the following motion was adopted.

R-2011-5-18 Upon motion duly made and seconded (Lowy, Graham), it was unanimously resolved that Senate recognize and express its appreciation for the outstanding contribution of Ms. Linda Healey who has worked at the University since 1983, serving as Registrar for the past 10 years, and wish her the very best in retirement.

Further to Mr. Coleby's comment, Senate also acknowledged Dean of Students Beth Morey who is retiring shortly.

Dr. Dandurand reported that during Closed Session, Senate approved the awarding of University Research Awards, upon recommendation of the Research Committee, to Dr. Marguerite Mendell (Established Award - Person and Society category), Dr. David Secko (Emerging Award - Person and Society category), Dr. Ted Stathopoulos (Established Award- Technology, Industry and Environment) and Dr. Alexandre Champagne (Emerging Category - Technology, Industry and Environment).

Dr. Dandurand added that the Research Committee had awarded the 2011 Petro-Canada Young Innovators Award to Dr. Zeynep Arsel (Person and Society category) and Dr. Zhigang Tian (Technology, Industry and Environment).

18. Next meeting

The next regular meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, September 9, 2011, at 2 p.m.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate