

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, December 7, 2012, at 2 p.m.
in the Norman D. Hébert, LL.D. Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Dr. Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Prof. A. Akgunduz; Prof. P. Caignon; Prof. L. Caminati; Prof. S. Carliner; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Prof. S. Chlopan; Ms. A. Dahl; Prof. I. Dostaler; Prof. D. Douglas; Dean R. Drew; Dr. O. Dyens; Prof. L. Dyer; Ms. H. El Jahidi; Prof. M. Frank; Prof. J. Garrido; Ms. I. Giancotta; Dean S. Harvey; Ms. M. Hotchkiss; Prof. N. Ingram; Ms. W. Kraus-Heitmann; Prof. B. Layne; Ms. M. Lemieux; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean B. Lewis; Mr. D. McSharry; Mr. G. Morrow; Dr. L. Ostiguy; Dr. J. Powlowski (*replacing Dr. G. Carr*); Prof. R. Reilly; Prof. J. Segovia; Mr. T. Shahwan; Prof. W. Sims; Prof. M. R. Soleymani; Mr. R. Sonin; Prof. R. Staseson; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Mr. S. Swaine-Simon; Prof. M. L. Wholey; Dean C. Wild; Mr. C. Wilson

Non-voting members: Ms. J. Beaudoin; Mr. P. Beauregard; Mr. R. Côté; Me B. Freedman; Mr. P. Kelley; Ms. R. Marion; Ms. M. C. Morin; Ms. S. Sarik

Also attending: Mr. T. Too

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. H. Abdullahi; Mr. G. Beasley; Mr. C. Brenchley; Prof. J. Grant; Prof. F. Khendek; Prof. J. Lewis; Prof. C. Nikolenyi; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. G. Rail; Ms. D. Saryan; Prof. Y. Shayan; Prof. J. Turnbull; Mr. C. Walcott; Dean P. Wood-Adams

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Shepard at 2:04 p.m.

1.1 **Approval of Agenda**

R-2012-8-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Swaine-Simon), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 2, 2012

R-2012-8-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Ingram, Wild), it was resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 2, 2012 be approved.*

2. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.

3. President's Remarks

Dr. Shepard apprised Senators of invitations issued by various groups, including CREPUQ, to participate in four pre-summit theme days in preparation of the summit on higher education to be held in 2013. The first meeting has already been held, and the next one is on December 13 and 14 in Trois-Rivières regarding the topic of accessibility. Two other meetings are scheduled in the New Year.

Dr. Shepard apprised Senate of the government's announcement of a 5.2% cut for the current fiscal year to the operating grants of universities, representing about \$124 million for the sector, although it is not clear what is included. While the details on the extent or impact of this decision have not been communicated, preliminary calculations show that Concordia's operating grant would be reduced by approximately \$11.5 million, \$3 million of which could be offset by the government's compensation for the loss in revenues related to the cancellation of the tuition fee increase. While we have no definitive numbers at this point, what is clear is that we will be facing significant cuts in our operating grant. The Minister has also announced cuts in 2013/2014 but, again, the details remain to be confirmed.

Dr. Shepard and his team are diligently working to prepare a plan to address these cuts. In early January the University will begin a series of conversations with the community regarding the challenges caused by these budget cuts. He added that a special meeting of the Board will be convened in January to present a more detailed response, which will also be presented to Senate at the January 18 meeting.

On a more positive note, he congratulated the Men's Hockey team for winning the Corey Cup and Women's Rugby player Bianca Farella for being named Rookie of the Year by the Canadian Interuniversity Sport. He was also pleased to announce that the Concordia graduates who wrote the chartered accountant examination had done extremely well.

The President informed Senate that while the Concordia Centraide campaign had achieved 90% of its goal, he was hoping for 100% and reminded Senators that donations are still being accepted.

4. Standing Committee reports

4.1 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

The Committee has not met since the last Senate meeting.

4.2 Finance Committee (Document US-2012-8-D1)

Prof. Chaikelson explained that the Committee is looking into a mix of undergraduate and graduate programs across the Faculties. The objective of the exercise is to compare financial and enrolment projections made at the time of approval by Senate of these programs with their actual performance. She added that the Committee had also met on December 6 and that it would probably expand the list of programs it is reviewing.

4.3 Library Committee

The report of the November 26 meeting will be provided at the next Senate meeting.

4.4 Research Committee

The report of the December 5 meeting will be provided at the next Senate meeting.

5. Update on the Academic Plan

Dr. Ostiguy updated Senate on the various initiatives related to the Academic Plan and was pleased to report a surge of enthusiasm, energy and involvement in the Plan. She demonstrated the content of the Academic Plan website, specifying that all the links should be fully functional in the coming days. All initiatives and updates will be included on the website, opportunities to get involved will be clearly indicated, and all reports given at Senate will be fully documented.

While it has been a struggle to get student participation on the working groups, in January Dr. Ostiguy will be inviting student Senators to a breakfast meeting in order to engage them in the process.

CONSENT

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2012-8-D2)

R-2012-8-3 *The committee appointments set out in Document BG-2012-8-D2 (revised) were approved by consent.*

7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-20128-D3)

7.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science - Department of Biology (Document US-2012-8-D5)

R-2012-8-4 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science outlined in Document US-2012-8-D5 were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2012-8-D3.*

7.2 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science – Department of Education (Document US-2012-8-D6)

R-2012-8-5 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science outlined in Document US-2012-8-D6 were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2012-8-D3.*

7.3 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

7.3.1 Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering (Documents US-2012-8-D7 and D8)

7.3.2 Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering (Document US-2012-8-D9)

R-2012-8-6 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science outlined in Documents US-2012-8-D7 to D9 were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2012-8-D3.*

8. Language proficiency requirements changes to graduate programs (Document US-2012-8-D10)

This document was provided for information purposes.

REGULAR

9. Academic Programs Committee recommendation - Major undergraduate curriculum changes – University Examinations Committee (Document US-2012-8-D4)

Dr. Dyens provided the context and pedagogical reasons which led to the proposal before Senate to no longer allow students to obtain a second deferred examination, save for extraordinary circumstances, which are mostly of a medical nature. In lieu of a second deferral, students would receive a DISC notation, which was deemed pedagogically sounder.

Further to a comment that the wording does not allow for exceptions since it specifies that “an examination cannot be deferred for a second time”, it was agreed to amend the proposal to add the word “normally”. It was also agreed that a short presentation be made at the next Senate meeting to explain what steps have been taken by the University to monitor medical notes to ensure that they are dealt with appropriately.

R-2012-8-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dyens, Sonin), it was unanimously resolved:*

That the proposed modifications to Section 16.3.10 II 1. d. of the Undergraduate Calendar in Document US-2012-8-D4 be amended to insert the word “normally” in

the first phrase of the section so that it read "An examination cannot normally be deferred a second time"; and

That the major undergraduate curriculum changes regarding Section 16.3.10 of the undergraduate calendar regarding examinations regulations outlined in Document US-2012-8-D4 as amended be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2012-8-D3.

10. Revisions to the Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (Policy BD-15) (Document US-2012-8-D11)

Senators had no comments on the proposed revised guidelines. Dr. Shepard encouraged Senators to submit nominations for honorary degree candidates, noting that while Ms. Tessier will be sending a call for nominations early in the New Year, nominations may be submitted any time during the course of the year.

11. Question period

In response to Dr. Leonard's query about his view on accessibility, Dr. Shepard responded that it can be defined in many ways. It is a nuanced and complex issue which can be influenced by several factors, such as socio-economic standing, cultural background, high school drop-out rate, etc.

Prof. Segovia wondered if the money set aside in the University's contingency fund could be used to compensate for the budget cuts and asked what amount is in the fund. Mr. Kelley said that the fund is normally comprised of about 1% of the University's forecasted revenues and currently a little less than that.

Further to Mr. Wilson's question regarding the rules for cross-listed courses, Mr. Too replied that normally those rules are the same as for regular courses. It was suggested that he follow-up with his other questions directly with the new Interim Registrar regarding the particulars of the situation.

Further to Ms. Dahl's questions regarding the language proficiency document under Document US-2012-8-D10, it was suggested that she direct them to Dr. Cameron Skinner, Associate Dean, Student Affairs and Postdoctoral Studies, in the School of Graduate Studies.

In response to comments from Prof. Akgunduz regarding the *Policy on Computer Provisioning* and more specifically the apparently higher cost of purchasing a computer through the University, Mr. Côté noted that the intent of the policy is to simplify the process while providing researchers with adequate support in a secure environment at the institutional level. He has had discussions with Dr. Carr to that effect to ensure that the objective is met. He recognized that some adjustments may be required to the policy and indicated that he would follow-up and provide an update in January.

Further to queries which were raised prior to the Senate meeting regarding the budget and priorities of the School of Extended Learning, Acting Dean Dyens said that the budget for the year was \$1.4 million. As for its priorities, while the School fulfills a critical mission, some questions have arisen regarding its current place and role. Dr. Ostiguy noted that these aspects will be reviewed in the New Year and there will be opportunities for input by the community. With respect to the timeframe for the Dean search, it is expected that the search will begin once the School's mandate has been confirmed.

12. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

13. Next meeting

Dr. Shepard noted that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, January 18, 2013, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.2.60.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate