

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION  
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE**

Held on Friday, February 15, 2013, 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. A. Shepard (*Chair*); Mr. H. Abdullahi; Prof. A. Akgunduz; Mr. N. Burke; Prof. P. Caignon; Prof. L. Caminati; Dr. G. Carr; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Prof. S. Chlopan; Prof. D. Douglas; Prof. L. Dyer; Ms. H. El Jahidi; Prof. M. Frank; Prof. J. Garrido; Prof. J. Grant; Dean S. Harvey; Ms. M. Hotchkiss; Prof. N. Ingram; Ms. W. Kraus-Heitmann; Ms. M. Lemieux; Dean B. Lewis; Prof. J. Lewis; Mr. G. Morrow; Dr. L. Ostiguy; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. G. Rail; Prof. R. Reilly; Ms. D. Saryan; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. Y. Shayan; Mr. R. Sonin; Prof. R. Staseson; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Mr. S. Swaine-Simon; Mr. J. Vaccaro; Dean C. Wild; Mr. C. Wilson; Dean P. Wood-Adams

**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

**ABSENT**

**Voting members:** Mr. G. Beasley; Prof. S. Carliner; Ms. A. Dahl; Prof. I. Dostaler; Dean R. Drew; Ms. I. Giancotta; Prof. F. Khendek; Prof. B. Layne; Prof. G. Leonard; Mr. D. McSharry; Prof. C. Nikolenyi; Prof. H. Proppe; Mr. T. Shahwan; Prof. M. R. Soleymani; Prof. J. Turnbull; Mr. C. Walcott; Prof. M. L. Wholey

1. **Call to order**

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

1.1 **Approval of Agenda**

R-2013-2-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Garrido, Lemieux), 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 January 18, 2013**

R-2013-2-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dyer, Swaine-Simon), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 18, 2013 be approved.*

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

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

3. President's Remarks

Dr. Shepard underlined the \$500,000 donation from Bell Canada to Concordia's Department of Psychology to subsidize therapy and assessment at the University's Applied Psychology Centre and Centre for Clinical Research in Health. He congratulated Dr. Jordan LeBel for having been awarded a 3M National Teaching Fellowship in recognition of his contributions to higher education in Canada. He was also pleased to report that the Hall Building escalators project has been completed under budget.

Dr. Shepard noted that the Provost Search is going well. He apprised Senate that a notice of motion had been given at the January 30 Board meeting with the objective of having the Board consider waiving the policy requirement for the public presentation of the short-listed candidates. He explained that in today's internet era, the consequences of not getting chosen are permanent. As a result, public presentations constitute a huge risk for individuals who are successfully employed elsewhere and are likely to deter excellent candidates. Dr. Shepard added that this proposal is in line with the EGRC recommendations.

Dr. Shepard noted that CREPUQ held a press conference this morning and issued a press release in formal protest of the government cuts to the higher education sector. The higher education summit is scheduled to be held on February 25 and 26 and will be based on the four pre-summit themes. However, no other details have been provided at this time. With respect to the budget cuts, the government has stipulated that no more than half of the required cut can be taken as deficit this year. While there is still little clarity going forward, he will continue to seize any opportunity to advocate on behalf of Concordia by talking about the effects of the budget cuts as well as the University's economic impact on the local economy.

4. Update on the Academic Plan

Dr. Ostiguy said that work is being done to organize the 82 initiatives in the Academic Plan. Over the next 18 months, focus is being placed on three priority areas: graduate student recruitment, innovative and dynamic undergraduate offerings and the libraries, under the theme "strong programs" which pulls together a number of Academic Plan commitments under one umbrella.

This encompasses work in the areas of enrolment and recruitment, writing and communication skills, e-learning and engagement opportunities. The intent is to develop working groups, tool kits and funding envelopes in each of these areas to achieve the overriding objective of dynamic, magnetic and healthy programs. Dr. Ostiguy indicated her intention that the Academic Plan website be updated before each Senate meeting.

5. Standing Committee reports

5.1 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

A report will be provided at the next Senate meeting.

5.2 Finance Committee (Document US-2013-2-D1)

Prof. Chlopan expressed a concern about the University's decision to no longer accept undergraduate applications for summer admissions, and in particular the undue hardship for international students. He wondered if this was a cost-saving measure. The President indicated that this would be looked into and answered at the next meeting.

With respect to the Committee's ongoing review of the costing of new programs over the past decade, it was suggested that it also take into account the sustainability of programs.

5.3 Library Committee (Document US-2013-2-D2)

This report was provided for information purposes.

5.4 Research Committee

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

CONSENT

6. Committee appointment (Document US-2013-2-D3)

R-2013-2-3 *The committee appointment outlined in Document US-2013-2-D3 was approved by consent.*

7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2013-2-D4)

7.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science - Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (Document US-2013-2-D5)

R-2013-2-4 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science outlined in Document US-2013-2-D5 were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2013-2-D4.*

7.2 Major graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

7.2.1 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2013-2-D6)

7.2.2 Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (Document US-2013-2-D7)

R-2013-2-5 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science outlined in Documents US-2013-2-D6 and D7 were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2013-2-D4.*

7.3 Reference document (*How to Calculate Revenues and Expenses for New Courses and New Programs*) (Document US-2013-2-D8)

This document was provided for information purposes.

8. Annual report of the Ombudsperson (Document US-2013-2-D9)

This document was provided for information purposes.

REGULAR

9. Proposed amendments to Senate section of By-Laws (Document US-2013-2-D10)

R-2013-2-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Douglas, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the proposed amendments to article 58 of the By-Laws, as set out in Document US-2013-2-D10.*

10. Update on e-learning

The Provost urged Senators to think differently about e-learning and how it can move us forward as a true academic value, asking them to focus on the results of e-learning rather than on the delivery provider.

She summarized the current e-learning context at Concordia and conveyed the elements which are required for e-learning to be successful: a formal academic framework based on principles and priorities, more discussion and support at Senate, faculty and department engagement and careful assessment of results and progress.

At the March meeting, Senate will be asked to validate the e-learning principles proposed by APPC and to discuss the priorities and roadmap going forward. Dr. Ostiguy indicated that possible directions for e-learning include increasing the use of blended learning, accelerating the development of online certificates and developing and testing some MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses).

She concluded her update by inviting Senators to send her any questions they wish to have addressed at the March meeting and responded to questions. It was agreed that some links and/or reading material on the subject would be circulated to Senators by Ms. Tessier prior to the March meeting.

11. Question period

Prof. Segovia made the point that the current negotiations between CUFA and the University are going nowhere and that a CUFA strike would negatively affect the University's image.

11.1 Student eligibility requirement (Document US-2013-2-D11)

Mr. Morrow was not satisfied that the response provided a legitimate rationale for the exclusion of independent students from serving on Senate, further to which Dr. Shepard indicated that this matter be referred to Steering Committee.

11.2 eConcordia account fees (Document US-2013-2-D12)

Given that the new COPIBEC agreement covers digital copyright fees, Me Freedman noted that the eConcordia account fee structure will be revisited for future courses offered by eConcordia. Mr. Wilson suggested that the eConcordia account fees be publicized more prominently. Dr. Shepard specified that other questions regarding eConcordia will be answered during the presentation on eConcordia/KnowledgeOne which will occur later this Spring.

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, March 15, 2013, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.2.60.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.



Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate