

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, February 14, 2014,
immediately following the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Dr. A. Shepard (*Chair*); Prof. M. O. Ahmad; Prof. A. Akgunduz; Mr. F. Al Hammoud; Dr. B.-A. Bacon; Dr. G. Beaudry; Me P. Blais; Prof. P. Caignon; Dr. J. Camlot (*replacing Dean J. Locke*); Prof. S. Carliner; Dr. G. Carr; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Prof. S. Chlopan; Prof. R. Courtemanche; Prof. J. Didur; Prof. I. Dostaler; Prof. D. Douglas; Prof. L. Dyer; Mr. J. Fiset; Prof. M. Frank; Ms. J. Glavina; Prof. J. Grant; Dean S. Harvey; Prof. N. Ingram; Ms. W. Kraus-Heitmann; Ms. K. Korola; Mr. M. Kumar; Ms. M. Lemieux; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean B. Lewis; Prof. C. Moore; Prof. D. Morris; Ms. H. Nazar; Prof. C. Nikolenyi; Prof. H. Proppe; Prof. R. Reilly; Mr. L. Sanscartier; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. Y. Shayan; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Mr. C. Tisshaw; Ms. K. Trowell; Dean C. Trueman; Prof. M. L. Wholey; Dean C. Wild; Mr. T. Wilkings; Dean P. Wood-Adams

Non-voting members: Ms. J. Beaudoin; Mr. P. Beaugard; Mr. R. Côté; Mr. P. Kelley; Ms. R. Marion; Ms. S. Sarik

Permanent observers: Mr. G. Morrow; Dr. L. Ostiguy

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Agarwal; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Prof. J. Garrido; Prof. C. Jackson; Mr. M. Richardson; Mr. J. T. Vaccaro; Ms. M. Wheeler

Non-voting members: Me B. Freedman

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Shepard at 2:17 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2014-2-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved, with the removal of items 7 and 8 from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.*

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 17, 2014

R-2014-2-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 17, 2014 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 congratulated Philippe Caignon, fellow Senator and Chair of the Département d'études françaises, for being awarded one of ten annual 3M National Teaching Fellowships, the country's highest honour for university instructors. He also congratulated JMSB undergraduate student Alexandre Bilodeau for winning his second Olympic gold medal at the Sochi Winter games.

The President thanked Provost Bacon and Vice-President Côté for the excellent job they did representing the University on January 23 before the National Assembly Committee on the Quebec Charter of Secular Values. He also spoke of his upcoming travels to China and Japan to visit alumni and government officials as well as to meet potential donors and discuss potential academic partnerships.

Dr. Shepard apprised Senators of various events on campus, including a luncheon he attended today sponsored by the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) celebrating Roméo Dallaire's works in the prevention of child soldiers. This is a reminder of the kind of work done at the University which makes a difference in the world.

4. Standing Committee reports

Standing Committee reports are provided for information.

4.1 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (Document US-2014-2-D2)

There were no questions in connection with the above report.

4.2 Finance Committee (Document US-2014-2-D3)

In response to a query, Dr. Shepard provided an update on government funding. As indicated at the January meeting, last year's government budget cut of \$13.2 million is

permanent. The University has submitted proposals to receive new money under six specific envelopes, representing up to \$11.9 million in 2014/2015, but has yet to receive any confirmation.

4.3 Library Committee

4.4 Research Committee

These Committees have not met since the last Senate meeting.

5. Update on Academic Plan (Document US-2014-2-D4)

Dr. Bacon summarized the highlights of his written report.

He responded to questions and emphasized that the funding used for strategic hires comes from a specific envelope under the Academic Plan while that for the regular hires comes from money re-pooled further to retirements or resignations. In other words, one does not take away from the other.

7. Annual report from the Office of Rights and Responsibilities (Document US-2014-2-D6)

While this annual report is provided for information purposes, it was suggested that next year the Director and Senior Advisor, Rights and Responsibilities be present to respond to questions. Senators provided the following comments which will be conveyed to her by the Secretary of Senate:

- With respect to the table showing the breakdown of cases per offence, while the definition of sexual harassment in the Code includes sexual assault, there should be a breakdown of this category to show the number of sexual assaults reported as such.
- Is there a mechanism to allow students to make recommendations to the Advisor regarding modifications to the Code?
- Consider allowing a “judgment by default” to deal with situations where students request a hearing postponement and graduate before the formal process is concluded.
- The point was made that the Advisor’s recommendation regarding the proposed addition to the Code of a provision that would prevent disparaging the University was problematic and opens the door for misuse.
- The definition of a member should be more inclusive and be expanded to include employees who have filed complaints but have left the employ of the University.
- The language used in the report in connection with the “student protest movement” is obfuscating and instead should have used the now widely-acknowledged and more commonly used term "student strike".

8. Graduate calendar change (Document US-2014-2-D7)

In responding to a question regarding the reasons for blocking students who have not successfully completed a Concurrent Qualifying Program from future registration,

Dr. Wood-Adams clarified that the purpose of the change was to ensure that students complete their Concurrent Qualifying Programs within the first three terms in order to avoid problems at graduation time.

Because students can currently register even though their Concurrent Qualifying Program requirements have not been met, we are frequently faced with a situation where programs ask to waive the Concurrent Qualifying Program requirements very close to graduation time, creating a stressful situation for all. With this change, a block will flag students and program staff and faculty well in advance if there are still outstanding requirements, allowing decisions about waiving them to occur at a more opportune time than at graduation assessment time.

CONSENT

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2014-2-D5)

R-2014-2-6 *The committee appointments outlined in Document US-2014-2-D5 were approved.*

9. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2014-2-D8)

9.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science – Department of Exercise Science (Document US-2014-2-D10)

R-2014-2-7 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts of Science outlined in Document US-2014-2-D10 were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-2-D8.*

9.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts – Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (Document US-2014-2-D11)

R-2014-2-8 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts outlined in Document US-2014-2-D11 were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-2-D8.*

9.3 Major graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business – Departments of Accountancy and Finance (Document US-2014-2-D12)

R-2014-2-9 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business outlined in Document US-2014-2-D12 were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-2-D8.*

9.4 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts – Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (Documents US-2014-2-D13 and D14)

R-2014-2-10 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts outlined in Documents US-2014-2-D13 and D14 were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-2-D8.*

REGULAR

10. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2014-2-D8)
- 10.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science – Simone de Beauvoir Institute and Women’s Studies (Document US-2014-2-D9)

Prof. Geneviève Rail, Principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, noted that this new program was a leap forward for the Institute and a great fit with the student body. The program aims to foster students’ understanding of the role of human sexuality and behaviour and to encourage recognition of sexual culture, social organization and identity in all aspects of our world as well as providing a strong preparation of various careers and academic programs.

Prof. Rail conveyed the highlights of the program and responded to queries with respect to the program costing as well as the cautionary remark included in the Finance Committee’s report regarding the deferment of long term funding to evaluate the program’s success.

Finance Committee Chair Chaikelson noted that this is an exciting new program and that the role of the Finance Committee is to ensure that the proposed budget would meet the needs of the proposed program. A revised budget has been submitted following initial feedback from the Committee. The report makes the point that the budget figures are now reasonable, on the assumption that the estimates regarding the enrolment numbers are realistic, but also that this program might not draw the projected enrolments, based on a review of a study of small programs. Dr. Shepard specified that ultimately funding decisions will be under the Provost’s purview once the program is approved.

R-2014-2-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science outlined in Document US-2014-2-D9 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-2-D8.*

11. Revisions to the membership of the Fine Arts Faculty Council membership (Document US-2014-2-D15)

Dean Wild summarized the main changes which were outlined in the documentation provided to Senate and responded to questions of clarification.

R-2014-2-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the revised composition of the Fine Arts Faculty Council, as outlined in Document US-2014-2-D15.*

12. Report from the University Librarian on the expert panel of the Royal Society of Canada on the status and future of libraries and archives

Dr. Beaudry explained that the main objective of the Royal Society of Canada, comprised of over 2,000 scholars, scientist and artists, is to promote learning and research in the arts, the humanities and the natural and social sciences.

Last May, the Royal Society established an expert panel, composed of 11 scholars from Canada, the United States and Europe, whose mandate is to investigate the status and future of Canada's libraries and archives. Fifteen public consultations have been held so far and several submissions have been received. The peer-reviewed report is expected to be available in the Fall 2014.

The closing of federal libraries is a preoccupation of the entire Canadian library community. While no university has taken a position, the views of the University community have been expressed in a brief sent to the expert panel by the Canadian Association of University Teachers. Dr. Beaudry said that the expert panel will be making recommendations on this issue and encouraged members of the Concordia community to make submissions to the expert panel.

Mr. Morrow indicated that he had been tasked by the CSU to bring a motion before Senate regarding the dismantling of the federal libraries and the concerns about the irreparable damage that is being done to the edifice of knowledge, based on first-hand accounts about the destruction of library materials. Dr. Beaudry responded that books were being offered to university libraries and that there is nothing wrong about weeding out documents as long as unique documents are preserved. She believes that the unique documents are indeed being preserved. Besides the appropriate preservation of documents, the reduction of services is more of a concern. A copy of the expert panel's report will be forwarded to Senate in the Fall.

13. Question period

13.1 Response to written question from Senator David Douglas on course enrolment floors (Document US-2014-2-D16)

Further to a query from Prof. Douglas, the Provost clarified that the margin for the minimum enrolment for undergraduate courses, usually between 10 and 12 students, can vary slightly to take into account such factors as the level of the course, whether the course is compulsory or elective and program integrity issues.

In response to a query from Prof. Chlopan, Dean Lewis noted that the minimum enrolment for courses taught in the School of Extended Learning is typically 20 students because continuing education courses are not government funded and therefore based on a cost-recovery system, except for the for-credit business certificate which has the same enrolment considerations as the undergraduate courses given by the Faculties.

14. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

15. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, March 14, 2014, at 2 p.m.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate