

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, May 16, 2014,
immediately following the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LL.D. Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Dr. A. Shepard (*Chair*); Prof. A. Agarwal; Prof. M. O. Ahmad; Prof. A. Akgunduz; Dr. B.-A. Bacon; Dr. G. Beaudry; Me P. Blais; Prof. P. Caignon; Prof. S. Carliner; Dr. G. Carr; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Prof. S. Chlopan; Prof. J. Didur; Prof. I. Dostaler; Prof. D. Douglas; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Prof. L. Dyer; Mr. J. Fiset; Prof. M. Frank; Prof. J. Garrido; Ms. J. Glavina; Prof. J. Grant; Dean S. Harvey; Prof. N. Ingram; Prof. C. Jackson; Ms. K. Korola; Ms. W. Kraus-Heitmann; Mr. M. Kumar; Ms. M. Lemieux; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean J. Locke; Prof. C. Moore; Prof. D. Morris; Prof. C. Nikolenyi; Prof. H. Proppe; Prof. R. Reilly; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Mr. C. Tisshaw; Ms. K. Trowell; Dean C. Trueman; Mr. J. T. Vaccaro; Dean C. Wild; Mr. T. Wilkings; 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; Mr. B. Tucker

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

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. F. Al Hammoud; Prof. R. Courtemanche; Dean B. Lewis; Ms. H. Nazar; Ms. M. Payette; Mr. M. Richardson; Mr. L. Sanscartier; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. Y. Shayan; Ms. M. Wheeler; Prof. M. L. Wholey

1. Call to order

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

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2014-5-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, 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 April 25, 2014

R-2014-5-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 25, 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 thanked all Senators whose term on Senate was ending and congratulated the students who were graduating.

He underlined several successful conferences and events which were recently held or hosted by the University, including Association francophone pour le savoir (*Acfas*), the Society for French Historical Studies, the PERFORM conference on Physical Activity and Brain Functions, the Concordia Thinking Out Loud/Walrus talks in Ottawa and Toronto, emphasizing their role in showcasing the quality of the academic work and research and in enhancing the University's reputation.

The President highlighted some awards, including that of two Concordia students, Charles Gedeon and Al-Hurr Al-Dalli, together with fellow student McGill student Sami Sayegh, whose interdisciplinary Skywell project took Best Presentation and Best Project prize at the international student competition Shell Ideas360 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Senators were unanimous in congratulating them on this outstanding achievement.

Dr. Shepard concluded his report by updating Senators on the success of research grants as well as the status of undergraduate and graduate admissions.

4. Standing Committee reports

4.1 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (Document US-2014-5-D4)

4.2 Finance Committee (Document US-2014-5-D5)

4.3 Library Committee

4.4 Research Committee (Document US-2014-5-D6)

Senators had no questions regarding these committees or the reports.

CONSENT

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2014-5-D7)

R-2014-5-8 *The appointments outlined in Document US-2014-5-D7 were approved.*

6. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2014-5-D8)

6.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

6.1.1 Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics (German) (Document US-2014-5-D9)

6.1.2 Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability (Document US-2014-5-D11)

R-2014-5-9 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts of Science outlined in Documents US-2014-5-D9 and D11 were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-5-D8.*

6.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science - Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (Document US-2014-5-D13)

R-2014-5-10 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science outlined in Document US-2014-5-D13 were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-5-D8.*

6.3 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - John Molson School of Business (Document US-2014-5-D14)

R-2014-5-11 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business outlined in Document US-2014-5-D14 were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-5-D8.*

REGULAR

7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2014-5-D8)

7.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science - Interdisciplinary Studies (Document US-2014-5-D10)

Associate Dean Paul Joyce introduced the new Certificate in Science Foundations which will provide a solid foundation in traditional sciences. It should be of interest to independent students who wish to develop a necessary background to pursue an undergraduate degree program in science and particularly attractive to CEGEP students who have completed their program in an area other than science and who now want to modify their career path.

R-2014-5-12 *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-2014-5-D10 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-5-D8.*

7.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science - Certificate in Science and Technology (Document US-2014-5-D12)

Associate Dean Ali Akgunduz presented the new Certificate in Science and Technology which will serve the needs of independent students who wish to qualify for admission to an engineering or computer science degree program. There are currently 450 students enrolled in engineering courses which are not part of a program. This certificate constitutes a pathway to give students a flavor of engineering and allows them to verify if they can sustain the required GPA prior to enrolling in a degree program.

R-2014-5-13 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science outlined in Document US-2014-5-D12 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-5-D8.

8. Update on Academic Plan (Document US-2014-5-D15)

The Provost introduced the topic by noting that today's presentation constitutes a summary of the reports he has been giving throughout the year in relation to the University's accomplishments with respect to the five main objectives of the Academic Plan: expanding the university's research strengths, promoting program quality and innovation, building support for student success, increasing experiential learning and community engagement, and improving academic leadership and administrative support. Assisted by several members of Senate, Dr. Bacon provided updates on the status of over 20 initiatives currently underway. He noted that the Plan has allowed the University to be intentional in making progress in five key areas of its operations.

Further those updates, Dr. Bacon spoke of the challenges which lie ahead regarding the funding landscape, the internal financial pressures, the emerging demographics and the levelling off of applications. He also outlined several priorities for 2014/2015, including the transformation of the R. Howard Webster Library, new programs and curriculum development, digital and experiential learning options for students, recruitment and retention, and ensuring the sustainability of current investments that have been made under the Plan.

9. Update on Strategic Planning

Dr. Shepard conveyed his wish to engage in a thoughtful process before embarking on the design of the next strategic planning. He therefore urged Senators to contact him with their ideas. He will be coming back to Senate in the fall with a proposal on the process.

10. Presentation on 2014/2015 operating budget (Document US-2014-5-D16)

Dr. Bacon prefaced the presentation by noting that Mr. Kelley and himself have co-hosted 14 budget conversations so far. He spoke of the uncertainty and challenges caused by the underfunding of universities and ongoing budgets cuts and apprised Senators that the government has allowed universities to incur a small budget deficit for 2014/2015.

Mr. Kelley presented the planning landscape and assumptions, noting that the current fiscal environment has a level of uncertainty. It is unknown whether the cuts to our operating grant are permanent as well as any changes which might result from the *Chantier sur la politique de financement des universités*. The Ministry of Higher Education has asked Quebec universities to sign a one-year partnership agreement, which could mean up to \$11.9 million for Concordia in the 2014-15 fiscal year. However, at this time, there is no commitment beyond the one year as the Ministry and the Quebec Treasury Board await the results of the *Chantier* which is expected to submit its report in June.

Mr. Kelley presented the 2014/2015 operating budget and forecasts for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 which take into account the annual cuts of \$13.2 million to the University's operating grant which were announced in 2012 and made permanent last year. He underlined the assumptions on which the budget was prepared, including taking advantage of reinvestment funding announced by the previous government last year for strategic reinvestment in specific funding envelopes and financial debt repayment as well continued cost reductions and rising pension costs.

Based on the foregoing, the projected total revenues are \$394.8 million and the total expenditures are \$397.6 million, resulting in a deficit of \$2.8 million.

11. Question period

Ms. Kraus-Heitmann signaled that the summer term at eConcordia begins on May 1 and that students are blocked from registering if their tuition is not paid. She asked that this be looked into since government loans are only received around June 1, thereby penalizing those students who depend on loans to register. Mr. Kelley agreed to review this situation.

In response to a query from Dr. Douglas regarding the provenance of the funds paid to the guest speakers who give the Workshops on Social Science Research offered by the Department of Political Science, Dean Locke noted that the workshops are offered for credit to Concordia students but are also open to the students from other universities, individuals from the private or public sectors as well as anyone from the general public. The funding comes from several sources and the registration fee varies. For example, attendees from the private or public sectors pay higher fees for the workshops than students. Concordia students enrolled for degree credit pay an extra \$300 which is reimbursed via scholarships provided by the University. Some of the funding is also provided for under the Academic Plan.

In response to a query from Mr. Wilkings regarding the timeline for the approval of the *Policy on Intellectual Property*, Dr. Carr responded that he received the working group's report last week. It contains recommendations both with respect to proposed modifications to the Policy and how issues relating to the complex topic of IP might better be communicated within the university community. The working group report will be brought to Senate Research Committee in June with a view to circulating a draft revised policy to Faculty Councils for their comments, prior to a final proposal coming to Senate

later this fall. Given that IP provisions involve collective agreements, there will need to be some review of any proposed changes with the appropriate associations, as well as a final legal review.

12. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting is on Friday, September 12, 2014, at 2 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate