

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, October 31, 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; Ms. M. André; Dean A. Asif; Dr. B.-A. Bacon; Dr. G. Beaudry; Me P. Blais; Prof. P. Caignon; Prof. S. Carliner; Dr. G. Carr; Ms. A. Chevalier; Prof. S. Chlopan; Prof. R. Courtemanche; Prof. J. Didur; Prof. I. Dostaler; Prof. D. Douglas; Prof. Mariana Frank; Prof. Marcie Frank; Mr. C. Fuentes; Prof. B. Gabriel; Prof. J. Grant; Prof. E. Griffiths; Dean S. Harvey; Prof. N. Ingram; Prof. C. Jackson; Prof. L. Katsanis; Mr. K. Koochekian; Ms. J. Lelièvre; Prof. G. Leonard; Ms. L. Marshall-Kiparissis; Ms. M. Miller; Prof. M. Mulrennan; Prof. C. Nikolenyi; Mr. M. Palynchuk; Mr. B. Prunty; Prof. R. Reilly; Mr. K. Riad; Dean A. Roy; Ms. E. Saboureau; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. Y. Shayan; Prof. J. Sloan; Mr. T. Smith; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Prof. M.-L. Wholey; 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. I. Lacelle (*replacing Mr. B. Tucker*); Ms. R. Marion, Ms. L. Ostiguy

ABSENT

Voting members: Ms. E. Alguire; Mr. S. Brown; Prof. J. Capobianco; Dean B. Lewis

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2014-8-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved, with the removal of item 7.2 from the Consent to the Regular Agenda.*

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of October 3, 2014

R-2014-8-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of October 3, 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 faculty members for the excellent turnout at last Tuesday's convocation ceremonies. He briefly commented on the Maclean's rankings, noting that Concordia has moved up in the overall ranking.

With respect to the budget, he has been lobbying primarily behind the scenes. However, if a second wave of cuts occurs for this fiscal year, he might have to be more publicly vocal. Public pressure and lobbying might have caused the government to reconsider, and he is hoping that the collective conversation will have an impact. The Voluntary Departure Program has been extended for an additional week to allow more time to employees to make an informed decision.

Dr. Shepard announced a \$6 million grant for the Genomics Centre as well as 11 new Concordia University Research Chairs. He apprised Senate that Dean Wild's second term is ending in June and that the membership of the advisory search committee, chaired by Dr. Bacon, is published in the NOW. He also informed Senators that the Board had approved the next stage of the Webster Library Transformation Project.

The President urged Senators to contribute to the Centraide Campaign. This year's goal is \$195,000, with the bulk of the money raised going to people in need in our community. He concluded his remarks by thanking the faculty, staff and students who will participate in organizing the annual Open House which will be held on both campuses on November 8.

4. Standing Committee reports

4.1 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (Document US-2014-8-D2)

There were no questions regarding this report.

4.2 Finance Committee (Document US-2014-8-D3)

Drs. Shepard and Bacon responded to questions of clarification.

4.2.1 Responses to questions stemming from October 3, 2014 report (Document US-2014-8-D4)

The Provost summarized the answers provided in his written response to Prof. Ingram's questions. The latter thanked the Provost and the Chief Financial Officer for their thoughtful response and submitted further written questions, noting that the response to the fourth question was incomplete. He therefore reposed the fourth question and asked one supplemental question. It was agreed that he would discuss with the Provost how to best address the issues raised.

4.3 Research Committee (Document US-2014-8-D5)

There were no questions regarding this report.

5. Update on Academic Plan (Document US-2014-8-D6)

Dr. Bacon summarized the highlights of his written report.

CONSENT

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2014-8-D7 - revised)

R-2014-8-6 *The committee appointments outlined in Document US-2014-8-D6 (revised) were approved.*

7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2014-8-D8)

7.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

7.1.1 ESL requirements (Document US-2014-8-D9)

7.1.2 Département d'Études françaises (Document US-2014-8-D10)

7.1.3 Department of Geography, Planning and Environment (Document US-2014-8-D11)

7.1.4 Interdisciplinary Studies (Document US-2014-8-D12)

7.1.5 Department of Religion (Document US-2014-8-D13)

7.1.6 Simone de Beauvoir Institute and Women's Studies (Document US-2014-8-D14)

R-2014-8-7 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2014-8-D9 to D14, were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-8-D8.*

7.3 Major undergraduate curriculum – Faculty of Fine Art

7.3.1 Course offerings (Document US-2014-8-D16)

7.3.2 Department of Art History (Document US-2014-8-D17)

7.3.3 Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (Document US-2014-8-D18)

7.3.4 Department of Design and Computation Arts (Document US-2014-8-D19)

7.3.5 Department of Music (Documents US-2014-8-D20 and D21)

7.3.6 Department of Studio Arts (Document US-2014-8-D22)

R-2014-8-8 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, outlined in Documents US-2014-8-D16 to D22, were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-8-D8.*

REGULAR

7.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science - Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2014-8-D15)

In response to Mr. Riad's concern regarding the impact of the reduction of lab hours on practical experience and its repercussion on students' ability to be competitive in the job market, Dean Asif provided details on the proposed changes in the courses ELEC 311 and ELEC 321, explaining that the total value of the courses remains at 7 credits and the total lab component at 30 hours.

Dean Asif added that more project courses are being introduced and that experiential education, COOP and internships remain an integral part of the engineering programs and that the reduction of industry participation in COOP programs is attributable to the state of the economy, specifying that all universities are equally affected.

R-2014-8-9 *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-2014-8-D15, were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2014-8-D8.*

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

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

9. Research Committee: Recommendation regarding the Policy on the Ethical Use of Animals in Research and Teaching (VPRGS-13) (Document US-2014-8-D23)

Dr. Carr summarized the approval process outlined in the accompanying memo, adding that the adoption of a stand-alone policy is a requirement of the Canadian Council on Animal Care that oversees the ethical use of animals in science in Canada.

R-2014-8-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that Senate approve the Policy on the Ethical Use of Animals in Research and Teaching (VPRGS-13), outlined in Document US-2014-8-D23.*

10. Strategic directions update

Dr. Shepard informed Senators that the process will be slowed down a bit until the Voluntary Departure Program has been completed. He will provide updates at each Senate meeting.

11. Approval process of graduation list (Document US-2014-8-D24)

A motion was moved and seconded that, on recommendation of Steering Committee, Senate delegate to the University Registrar the approval of the graduation list; and that the University Registrar provide to Senate a written report detailing the graduation statistics following each convocation ceremony.

A discussion ensued, during which those in favor agreed that Senate's approval was cumbersome and constituted an unnecessary bureaucratic layer with no added value, while those opposed were not convinced that this was an onerous burden and felt strongly that it was Senate's duty, as the University's highest academic body, to approve the graduation list.

In the end, sensing that the majority was not in favor of the proposal, the motion was withdrawn.

12. Report on teaching hours in Faculty of Fine Arts

Following a written request to Steering Committee from Me Blais with respect to teaching hours in the Faculty of Fine Arts, Provost Bacon noted that Senate had asked APC to look into the matter. He consulted with the Chair of APC and the latter reported that the contact hours were stable but that a general discussion regarding the inconsistencies in the Faculties regarding the credit value of courses versus the number of contact hours was ongoing at APC. Provost Bacon will work with Me Blais with respect to obtaining some additional data.

13. Question period

Referring to the timeline that the President had provided at the last Senate meeting and his statement earlier today on about slowing down the strategic directions process, Mr. Wilkings queried Dr. Shepard for more details regarding the delay and its impact on the process. Dr. Shepard noted that it was not a smart idea to launch a joyful process in the middle of the Voluntary Departure Program and that this does not have a major impact on the timing of the launch which is planned for January, as he had indicated at the last Senate meeting.

Several Senators conveyed their thoughts on whether or not the process should move ahead as planned, accelerate or slow down. Dr. Shepard noted he would reflect on their advice, while reiterating that the process should be launched when the mood is more upbeat and that the basic timeline remains unchanged.

The President asked Ms. Marshall-Kiparissis to take up her concerns regarding the reduction of student academic space directly with the Deputy Provost.

14. Other business

Mr. Prunty apprised Senators of the mobilization against the government budget cuts held earlier today, attended by many people representing 69 organizations. He encouraged faculty and students to engage in this movement.

Prof. Chlopan encouraged all Senators to participate in the many Centraide events held on campus over the new few weeks.

15. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 5, 2014, at 2 p.m.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate