

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, January 16, 2015, at 2 p.m.
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; Dean A. Asif; Dr. B.-A. Bacon; Dr. G. Beaudry; Me P. Blais; Mr. S. Brown; Prof. P. Caignon; Prof. S. Carliner; Dr. G. Carr; Prof. S. Chlopan; Prof. R. Courtemanche; Prof. J. Didur; Prof. I. Dostaler; Prof. D. Douglas; Prof. Marcie Frank; Prof. Mariana Frank; Mr. C. Fuentes; Prof. B. Gabrial; Prof. J. Grant; Prof. E. Griffiths; Dean S. Harvey; Prof. C. Jackson; Prof. L. Katsanis; Mr. K. Koochekian; Ms. J. Lelièvre; Prof. G. Leonard; Ms. M. Miller; Prof. M. Mulrennan; 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. 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. R. Marion; Ms. L. Ostiguy; Mr. B. Tucker

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Agarwal; Ms. E. Alguire; Ms. M. André; Prof. J. Capobianco; Ms. A. Chevalier; Prof. N. Ingram; Dean B. Lewis; Ms. L. Marshall-Kiparissis; Prof. T. Stathopoulos

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Shepard introduced Andrea Renaud who was replacing Danielle Tessier as Secretary for today's meeting.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2015-1-1 *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 December 5, 2014

The Secretary noted that an additional theme should be added to the list of bullet points (*More emphasis on extra-curricular activities*) under item 8 on page 5.

R-2015-1-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 5, 2014 be approved, as amended.*

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

During the course of his remarks, Dr. Shepard spoke of the following:

- Dr. Carr's presentation on academic life at the December Board of Governors meeting was a great success. Three faculty members presented their research.
- The Strategic Directions website has been launched. The Strategic Directions Advisory Committee has met a number of times and is making progress. The collaborative nature of the consultations on the strategic planning will make this a unique and educational experience for those who participate.
- The recent donation of \$1.6 million software for the John Molson School of Business from the data analytics and trading technology provider, CQG.
- The recent visit from the Minister of Education to the PERFORM Centre. He had a great time seeing the facilities and speaking to the faculty and staff.
- The new Student Information System goes live on January 26.
- The Student Success Centre is up and running.
- The Webster Library renovations are starting, and the upgrades will be taking place over the next three years.
- The Teaching and Learning festival is taking place between now and February 14, 2015.
- There was a great turnout at the recent hot chocolate and coffee event that he hosted, which provides an opportunity to speak to many students, faculty and staff in a candid setting.
- An extra Senate meeting may be required at the end of the session on either May 29 or June 5, 2015.

4. Standing Committee reports

4.1 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (Document US-2015-1-D1)

There were no questions in relation to this report.

4.2 Finance Committee (Document US-2015-1-D2)

In response to a question regarding the changes to the graduate tuition remission, it was explained that the number of the Concordia awards has increased from 33 to 40. This was done in response to research that showed that if Concordia paid the remission awards paid at the Quebec tuition rate, the differential will be paid by government awards. Therefore Concordia went ahead and lowered the award in order to create more awards. Based on the data, this measure has resulted in more International graduate students attending Concordia.

Further to a query, the President explained the distinction between the Voluntary Departure Program deficit for extraordinary expenses and an operating deficit, both of which must be repaid over time.

4.3 Library Committee (Document US-2015-1-D3)4.4 Research Committee (Document US-2015-1-D4)

There were no questions pertaining to these reports.

CONSENT5. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2015-1-D5)5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2015-1-D6)

R-2015-1-3 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Document US-2015-1-D6, were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-1-D5.*

REGULAR6. Research Committee: Recommendation regarding revisions to the Policy on Intellectual Property (VPRGS-9) (Document US-2015-1-D7)

Dr. Carr presented the changes and reasoning for the update to the *Policy on Intellectual Property* (VPRGS-9) (IP policy). The main implication of the proposed changes to the IP Policy is that IP created in the context of coursework, and extracurricular activities (i.e. student clubs, D3), are clearly excluded from the IP Policy if such IP does not involve significant use of university resources, is not co-invented with a faculty member and is not subject to agreements with funding agencies or companies.

R-2015-1-4 *Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Research Committee, Senate approve the revisions to the Policy on Intellectual Property (Policy VPRGS-9), outlined in Document US-2015-1-D7.*

7. Update on strategic directions

Dr. Shepard reminded the members about the launching of the Strategic Directions website today and asked one of the members of the working group to update Senate on the progress. Dr. Wood-Adams said that many great ideas were brought forward at the roundtable sessions that took place at the previous Senate meeting. The topics were divided up and assigned to people in the working groups for consultation. She appreciated this unique way of approaching the strategic directions planning phase.

Dr. Shepard explained that the model Concordia is using is different, a homegrown project and an internal process that he hopes will see fruitful results. The first speaker to help guide the directions will be David Ward on January 28.

Responding to a query, Dr. Shepard indicated that sustainability is something Concordia does very well and it is incorporated into every aspect of the directions therefore it will not have its own working group. Dr. Bacon added that the Sustainability Governance Framework has been working to integrate sustainability at all levels in the University through the work of the three sub-committees. He invited the Senators, especially those on idea groups, to contact any of the sub-committees.

Dr. Bacon gave a presentation on the strategic planning process entitled *A Decade in Review; Strategic Planning at Concordia 2004-2014*. A copy is on file with the Secretary.

Dr. Bacon summarized the planning processes that began in 2005 and continues to today. Over that time, five plans were followed through including the current Academic Plan and the Strategic Research Plan.

For the new planning phase, in line with previous plans, the University is looking to continue the upward growth in the following areas:

- raise enrollment at the undergraduate and graduate level including international students
- create more online and blended learning opportunities for students
- raise graduation rates
- continue hiring research-engaged faculty members
- increase research funding
- increase infrastructure upgrades
- raise the overall reputation of the University

Dr. Bacon also reviewed the accomplishments under the academic plan to date. They include success in areas such as new international fee remission awards, undergraduate research awards, the curriculum innovation fund, departmental retreats, co-op expansion and better admissions process among others.

A discussion ensued, during which questions of clarification were answered.

8. Question period

Mr. Palynchuck asked about when the guidelines for the undergraduate research grants would be posted online. Dr. Bacon said that this had become a flagship program for the University and that it was hoped that it would soon be possible to announce 75 awards for 2015-16.

Me Blais inquired about why the graduate dates to drop classes have changed to April 2 since it is the week before classes end. Dr. Wood-Adams explained that a poor grade in a class can mean expulsion at the graduate level. It was agreed through extensive consultation at the School of Graduate Studies that it is better for a graduate student to have the opportunity to drop a class with a poor grade in order to be able to continue their studies. It was concluded that this measure does not hurt academic integrity.

Mr. Smith asked that a summary on the sustainability governance framework progress be presented at Strategic Directions Advisory Committee. Dr. Shepard agreed and said a presentation will be put together.

9. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Andrea Renaud
Acting Secretary