

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, April 17, 2015,
immediately following the Closed Session meeting
in the Norman D. Hébert, LL.D. Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Shepard (*Chair*); Prof. A. Agarwal; Prof. M. O. Ahmad; Prof. A. Akgunduz; Ms. E. Alguire; Dean A. Asif; Dr. B.-A. Bacon; Dr. G. Beaudry; Mr. S. Boivin; Prof. P. Caignon; Dr. J. Camlot (*representing Dean A. Roy*); Prof. S. Carliner; 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. C. Jackson; Ms. I. Johnston; Mr. K. Koochekian; Ms. J. Lelièvre; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean B. Lewis; Ms. L. Marshall-Kiparissis; Ms. M. Miller; Mr. A. Muller; Prof. M. Mulrennan; Mr. M. Palynchuk; Dr. J. Powlowski (*representing Dr. G. Carr*); Mr. B. Prunty; Prof. R. Reilly; 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. L. Ostiguy

ABSENT

Voting members: Me P. Blais; Mr. S. Brown; Prof. J. Capobianco; Ms. A. Chevalier; Prof. N. Ingram; Prof. L. Katsanis

Non-voting members: Ms. R. Marion, Mr. B. Tucker

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m.

1.1 **Approval of Agenda**

R-2015-3-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved, with the re-ordering of some agenda items.*

Following Mr. Prunty's request to add an agenda dealing with a motion from some students registered in the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, the President indicated that this matter would be dealt with under agenda item 14: Other business.

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of February 13, 2015

R-2015-3-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of February 13, 2015 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

During the course of his remarks, Prof. Shepard reported the following:

- The additional meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, May 22, 2015, at 2 p.m., to finalize the strategic directions. Formal confirmation will be sent next week.
- He continues to lobby the provincial government against any further budget cuts. The budget orientations for universities for 2015/2016 are now expected to be announced during the first week of May.
- In response to the challenges experienced in academic departments regarding admissions and grade processing following the implementation of the new SIS, additional rapid response teams, hotlines as well as centralized training have been put in place. Assurance was given that some individuals are working overtime and that training and assistance will be provided as long as it is needed.
- The new PhD in English Literature has been approved by the government.
- The appointment of Dr. Laura Mitchell as the inaugural Director of the Student Success Centre.

The President also updated Senators on recent events he attended and student successes, including first place in the 2015 Caltech Space Challenge, Jeux de la traduction, the Engineering and Commerce Case Competition and the John Molson Undergraduate Case Competition.

4. Report of Standing Committees

4.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2015-3-D2)

4.3 Library (Document US-2015-3-D4)

4.4 Research (Document US-2015-3-D5)

There were no questions in connection with these reports.

4.2 Finance (Document US-2015-3-D3)

Further to a query about how new programs are assessed to determine their financial sustainability, speaking privileges were granted to the Chair of the Finance Committee, Dr. June Chaikelson, who explained that the Finance Committee has been following the costs of a number of newly-approved programs approved by Senate over the last years. The cost and income of new programs can be determined but the number of enrolments cannot, and in some cases the number of projected enrolments tends to be overly optimistic. While about 2/3 of new programs meet the enrolment target, 1/3 of programs are under the target. In the latter situation, this becomes problematic when those programs have ongoing resources, such as the appointment of tenure-track faculty and permanent staff.

Therefore, the Finance Committee is suggesting that no permanent costs or hires be committed to new programs during the first three years and that this be included in the approval process of new programs. Comments were made that insufficient resources could negatively impact the ability to recruit students and that it takes more than three years to establish and assess the success of some programs.

5. Update on Academic Plan (Document US-2015-3-D6)

Dr. Bacon summarized the content of his written report.

CONSENT

6. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2015-3-D7)

6.1 Undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

6.1.1 Department of Applied Human Sciences (Document US-2015-3-D8)

6.1.2 Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry (Document US-2015-3-D9)

6.1.3 Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics - Classics (Document US-2015-3-D10)

6.1.4 Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics - Linguistics (Document US-2015-3-D11)

6.1.6 Department of Mathematics and Statistics (Documents US-2015-3-D13 to D15)

6.1.7 Department of Political Science (Document US-2015-3-D16)

6.1.8 Department of Religion (Document US-2015-3-D17)

6.1.9 Department of Sociology and Anthropology (Document US-2015-3-D18)

R-2015-3-6 *The undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2015-3-D8 to D11, and D13 to D18, were approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-3-D7.*

6.2 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science – Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (Document US-2015-3-D19)

R-2015-3-7 *The undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Document US-2015-3-D19, were approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-3-D7.*

6.3 Undergraduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business (Document US-2015-3-D20)

R-2015-3-8 *The undergraduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Document US-2015-3-D20, were approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-3-D7.*

6.4 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

6.4.1 Department of Applied Human Sciences (Document US-2015-3-D21)

6.4.2 Department of Education (Document US-2015-3-D22)

6.4.3 Département d'Études françaises (Document US-2015-3-D23)

6.4.4 Department of Journalism (Document US-2015-3-D24)

6.4.5 Department of Religion (Document US-2015-3-D25)

R-2015-3-9 *The graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2015-3-D21 to D25, were approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-3-D7.*

6.5 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science – Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2015-3-D26)

R-2015-3-10 *The graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Document US-2015-3-D26, were approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-3-D7.*

6.6 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts – Department of Creative Arts Therapies (Document US-2015-3-D27)

R-2015-3-11 *The graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, outlined in Document US-2015-3-D27, were approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-3-D7.*

6.7 Graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business

6.7.1 Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (Document US-2015-3-D28)

6.7.2 Graduate Certificate in Business Administration (Document US-2015-3-D29)

R-2015-3-12 *The graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Documents US-2015-3-D28 and D29, were approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-3-D7.*

REGULAR6.1.5 Department of Journalism (Document 2015-3-D12)

In response to a question, it was specified that changes brought to the Department of Journalism were intended to streamline its program structure, with the view of modernizing the journalism program and maintaining its overall integrity. The revised structure will allow students to progress in the most appropriate manner through the program, thereby allowing them to be better situated for opportunities upon graduation.

R-2015-3-13 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Document US-2015-3-D12, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-3-D7.

11. Discontinuance of the School of Extended Learning (Document US-2015-3-D34)

The Provost noted that the request before Senate was essentially to implement the policy changes resulting from last May's approval of a new mandate for the School of Extended Learning.

In response to questions, he specified that the SEL 149 course will run as is for the 2015/2016 academic year, and that work continues to review and revise its format for 2016/2017 onwards. He added that the University will honor its commitments to students who are currently in the business certificate program, as these courses will be maintained until the winter of 2016.

R-2015-3-14 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the discontinuance of the School of Extended Learning (SEL) as an academic unit, effective June 1, 2015, and that any remaining activities be continued under the Centre for Continuing Education;

That the Council of the School of Extended Learning, as described in the document entitled Membership and Powers of the Faculty Councils, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies and the Council of the School of Extended Learning, be discontinued;

That any other amendment to documents resulting from the SEL discontinuance, such as the By-Laws and Membership and Functions of Senate Standing Committees, be approved.

7. Addition of a librarian on Senate (Document US-2015-3-D30)

Dr. Beaudry conveyed the request as presented in the position paper, emphasizing the importance of the role of the librarian in the academic life of the University and stating her view that this request is reasonable and legitimate.

R-2015-3-15 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that Senate approve the addition of one librarian as a voting member of Senate.*

12. Update on strategic directions

Prof. Shepard outlined the strategic directions process overview, comprised of preliminary discussions at Senate and the Board of Governors in the Fall 2014, and a two-phase public process, consisting in strategic visioning from January to June 2015, and action planning from September to December 2015. Phase One included a very successful speaker series, the establishment of the Strategic Directions Advisory Committee, working groups and idea cafés, brainstorming sessions at Senate and the Board, consultations with department chairs, senior managers and student associations, polling students. The process was widely publicize via a robust website, digital screens across the University, internal publications, newspaper ads regarding the speak series and Twitter.

Following the gathering of the input resulting from the above exercise and the reports of the working groups, draft strategic directions have been written up. The draft directions will be posted on the website for comments from the community. Those comments will be communicated to the Strategic Directions Advisory Committee which will propose a final draft for Senate and Board approval. Phase Two will consist in action planning at the department and unit levels.

The President showed some examples of strategic plans at other universities which are too long or too bureaucratic, noting his wish that our plan be motivating to all members of the community. The preliminary draft contains nine strategic priorities as follows:

- ⇒ Double our research
- ⇒ Teach for tomorrow
- ⇒ Get your hands dirty
- ⇒ Mix it up
- ⇒ Experiment boldly
- ⇒ Grow smartly
- ⇒ Embrace the city, embrace the world
- ⇒ Go beyond
- ⇒ Take pride

A document entitled “Strategic directions working draft” was distributed to Senators, which contained a preface and listed each of the nine above-stated priorities, articulating the focus of each priority while proposing some actions and goals.

A discussion ensued, during which Senators provided feedback on each priority, the full details of which were recorded by Mr. Jason Ens, Executive Director, Academic Policy, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives, on behalf of the Strategic Directions Advisory Committee. The President thanked Senators for their input. The draft document will be revised to take into account today’s comments, and the revised draft will be posted on the website next week for input from the University community.

8. Annual report from the Office of Rights and Responsibilities (Document US-2015-3-D31)

Presenting on behalf of the Director and Senior Advisor, Louise Shiller, currently on maternity leave, Me Freedman outlined the highlights of the 2013/2014 annual report, including the mandate of the Office of Rights and Responsibilities, the range of responses to alleged violations and the relationship between the Code and other policies.

He reviewed the data highlights, including the number of requests for assistance, the cases by infractions, the category of complainants and respondents and conveyed some recommendations which are being compiled for consideration during the next Code review. Following his presentation, Me Freedman responded to questions.

9. Annual report from the Ombuds Office (Document US-2015-3-D32)
 10. Amendment to the Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (Document US-2015-3-D33)

It was agreed to defer these items to the next meeting.

13. Question period

Responding a question from Ms. Marshall-Kiparrisis, the Deputy Provost reported that the work of the Policy Review Committee on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment is ongoing. Once its work is completed, the Committee will have met for 11 hours and will have consulted with 9 groups. Dr. Ostiguy encouraged anyone having comments to send them to her, adding that the Committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the President in the next few weeks.

14. Other business

Mr. Prunty introduced a motion as follows:

That the Concordia Senate extend the due dates for the submission of grades for winter 2015 courses in the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and the Interdisciplinary Sexualities Minor and call on the administration to allocate necessary funds to pay part-time professors and teaching assistants to be able to complete the teaching and evaluation of their courses in a manner that does not violate either their pedagogical commitments or their collective agreements.

The President indicated that entertaining motions from the floor of Senate without adequate background information and without having vetted them first with Steering Committee is highly unusual.

Mr. Prunty acknowledged Prof. Shepard's concern but indicated that time is of the essence, since the deadline for the end of the semester is fast approaching and the students making the request have a compelling position. In his view, the additional expense was not unreasonable for democratic inclusion. He added that the traditional

structures are not sufficient, and the University needs to accommodate the needs of those students. While not their spokesperson, Mr. Prunty said he fully supported the motion.

A discussion ensued, during which it was noted that several Senators had left the meeting, not knowing that this motion was going to be presented.

The Provost informed Senate that the Principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Dr. Geneviève Rail, had circulated a very thoughtful memo to all students, stating that the semester would not be extended but that she would take steps to ensure that students could finish the semester. He was not comfortable voting on the motion without her input. Other Senators also expressed the view that adopting such a motion would create a negative precedent without having the full knowledge and hearing both sides.

The Deputy Provost added that the establishment of regulations follows a rigorous process and cannot be set by local groups. However, there is a lot of flexibility to accommodate students within those regulations.

At Mr. Prunty's request, Senators agreed to grant speaking privileges to two students, Ms. Irmak Bahar who had voted for the strike, and Ms. Stéphanie Dufresne who had voted against the strike, so that they could state the reasons they were asking Senate for the semester extension. They both read statements and argued, among other things, that the lack of time only came up in the last days and that not all professors are willing to accommodate the fact that students have withheld their academic work during the strike.

In the end, further to the President's request, Mr. Prunty agreed to withdraw the motion, based on the commitment from the President, the Provost and the Deputy Provost to continue to look for ways to accommodate students within the confines of the regulations.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate