

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION**  
**OF THE MEETING OF SENATE**

Held on Friday, May 15, 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. M. O. Ahmad; Prof. A. Akgunduz; Ms. E. Alguire; Dean A. Asif; Dr. B.-A. Bacon; Me P. Blais; Prof. P. Caignon; Prof. J. Capobianco; Prof. S. Carliner; Dr. G. Carr; Prof. S. Chlopan; Prof. J. Didur; Prof. I. Dostaler; Prof. D. Douglas; Prof. Marcie Frank; Mr. C. Fuentes; Prof. B. Gabriel; Prof. J. Grant; Prof. E. Griffiths; Dean S. Harvey; Prof. N. Ingram; Mr. K. Koochekian; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean B. Lewis; Ms. L. Marshall-Kiparissis; Ms. M. Miller; Prof. M. Mulrennan; Mr. M. Palynchuk; Mr. B. Prunty; Prof. R. Reilly; Dean A. Roy; Ms. E. Saboureau; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. Y. Shayan; 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. Beaugard; Mr. R. Côté; Me B. Freedman; Mr. P. Kelley; Dr. L. Ostiguy; Mr. B. Tucker

**ABSENT**

Voting members: Prof. A. Agarwal; Dr. G. Beaudry; Mr. S. Boivin; Mr. S. Brown; Ms. A. Chevalier; Prof. Mariana Frank; Prof. C. Jackson; Ms. I. Johnston; Prof. L. Katsanis; Ms. J. Lelièvre; Mr. A. Muller; Prof. J. Sloan

Non-voting members: Ms. R. Marion

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:16 p.m.

1.1 **Approval of Agenda**

R-2015-4-6 *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 17, 2015

R-2015-4-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 17, 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

Prof. Shepard congratulated student Senators who are graduating in June, thanked all Senators whose terms are ending for their service and acknowledged Deans Wild and Lewis, both attending their last regular meeting of Senate as Deans.

He also updated Senate on several ongoing events and initiatives, including the following:

- ⇒ A number of exciting research funding results.
- ⇒ 2014/2015 was the best year ever for fundraising in a non-campaign year, with annual giving up by 14%.
- ⇒ Concordia received a strong showing in the QS World University Rankings by Subject and the Times Higher Education by placing in the rankings of the top 100 universities under 50 years old.
- ⇒ A meeting on May 4 with Minister Blais along with the other Quebec university rectors, to receive various budget and other updates.
- ⇒ His successful trip to Beijing, Hong Kong and Seoul, during which he met with alumni and officials of several academic institutions to forge new relationships.
- ⇒ Concordia's participation in some lively events, such as the 2015 series of Walrus Talks.
- ⇒ Following his commissioning of a report on sexual harassment and sexual assault, he has received the first draft from Dr. Ostiguy. He will review same and decide on the next steps.

The President concluded his remarks by urging faculty members to attend the Spring convocation ceremonies held on June 8, 9 and 10 at Place des Arts.

## 4. Report of Standing Committees

4.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2015-4-D4)

4.2 Library (Document US-2015-4-D5)

4.3 Research (Document US-2015-4-D6)

There were no questions in connection with these reports.

5. Update on Academic Plan (Document US-2015-4-D7)

Dr. Bacon summarized the content of his written report.

CONSENT

6. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2015-4-D8)

6.1 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

6.1.1 Department of Applied Human Sciences (Document US-2015-4-D9)

6.1.2 Department of Biology (Document US-2015-4-D10)

6.1.3 Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics (Document US-2015-4-D11)

6.1.4 Department of English (Documents US-2015-4-D12 to D14)

6.1.5 Department of Geography, Planning and Environment (Document US-2015-4-D15)

6.1.6 Department of Religion (Document US-2015-4-D16)

6.1.7 Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability (Document US-2015-4-D17)

R-2015-4-8 *The undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2015-4-D9 to D17, were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-4-D8.*

6.2 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

6.2.1 Program requirements (Document US-2015-4-D18)

6.2.2 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Documents US-2015-D19 and D20)

R-2015-4-9 *The undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Documents US-2015-4-D18 to D20, were approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2015-4-D8.*

7. Committee appointments (Document US-2015-4-D21)

R-2015-4-10 *The Committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2015-4-D21, were approved.*

REGULAR

8. Annual report from the Ombuds Office (Document US-2015-4-D22)

Ms. Kristen Robillard, Ombudsperson, presented a summary of the 2013/2014 annual report. She provided some statistical highlights and conveyed the three recommendations. She also updated Senate on the progress of the implementation of recommendations from previous annual reports.

Following her update, Ms. Robillard responded to comments and questions from members of Senate.

9. Amendment to the Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (Document US-2015-4-D23)

Prof. Shepard explained the rationale of the request, noting that he would use the authority sparingly and would ensure that any candidate receiving an award outside of the regular convocation schedule would have opportunities to interact with students and faculty.

R-2015-4-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Honorary Degree and Convocation Committee, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the amendments to the Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (Policy BD-15), outlined in Document US-2015-4-D23.*

10. Presentation on strategic directions

The President recapitulated the sequence of events comprised in Phase 1 of the strategic directions exercise which began last Fall and have culminated into the draft presented for discussion at today's meeting, copy of which was emailed to Senators yesterday, entitled *Strategic directions revised draft – May 14, 2015*. Since the last Senate meeting, the document has been revised to incorporate comments received. The full information regarding the process, working groups and various initiatives is posted on the strategic directions [website](#).

Overall, there was a positive reaction to the tone of the document. A lot of feedback was received, and some of the proposed directions resonated more with the community: *get your hands dirty, double our research, teach for tomorrow, and take pride*, the latter probably getting the most attention.

Speaking privileges were granted to Dr. Jason Ens, who noted the main changes brought since the last version:

- Some of the rhetoric has been toned down.
- More emphasis has been placed on the University's core values in the preface.
- The actions to achieve the directions were pulled out of the document and will be included in Phase 2 so that the document focus on our high-level articulations.
- A lot of questions were asked about the implementation; and it was decided to keep the specifics from the aspirations.
- There was a common refrain for administrative efficiency.

A discussion ensued, during which several Senators commented favorably on the tone, tenor and content of the document. Based on the feedback, the President suggested that two edits be brought to the document and asked Senators if they were prepared to approve the document as amended.

R-2015-4-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was resolved that Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the strategic directions, as amended.*

At the President's request, Senators provided advice to him with respect to Phase 2, summarized as follows:

- Look how to expand our best practices.
- Preserve the dynamic of engaging students and ensure student inclusion in all discussion groups.
- Make the knowledge from Phase 1 available in Phase 2.
- Encourage dialogue between groups, nudge people towards inter-disciplinarity and have conversations about the inter-disciplinary experience.
- Ban the word 'strategic' from the initial discussion of Phase 2.
- Hold a discussion group for each theme with a broad membership.
- Strategic directions should not overpower other ongoing initiatives; do not hold discussions in silos.
- Be flexible, allow units to come up with their vision, do not tie them down.

11. Question period

In response to a comment about the 'shopping cart' application on the student portal since the implementation of the new student information system, Prof. Shepard indicated that he had already asked that it be removed, unless the financial implications of doing so are too prohibitive.

12. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate