

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, October 7, 2016,
immediately following the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Mudasser Akbar; Ali Akgunduz; Amir Asif; Guylaine Beaudry; Patrick Blair; Patrice Blais; Stéphane Brutus; Philippe Caignon; Ian Campbell; Graham Carr; Frank Crooks; Daniel Cross; Effrosyni Diamantoudi; Christine DeWolf; Jill Didur; Charles Draimin; Rebecca Duclos; Marcie Frank; Mariana Frank; Jana Ghalayini; Vince Graziano; Rudy Grow; Brigitte Jaumard; Esmael Kariminezhad; Lea Katsanis; Armani Martel; Shahbaz Masood; Alexander Milton; David Morris; Lorraine Oades; Virginia Penhune; Justin Powlowski; Harald Proppe; André Roy; Sophia Sahrane; Daniel Salée; Yousef Shayan; Robert Soroka; Ted Stathopoulos; Jean-Philippe Warren; Paula Wood-Adams

Non-voting members: Philippe Beaugard; Roger Côté; Bram Freedman; Rachel Marion; Lisa Ostiguy; Daniel Therrien

ABSENT

Voting members: Danica Jojich; Stephen Karchut; Rahul Kumar; Monica Mulrennan; Johanne Sloan; Sofiène Tahar

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Denis Cossette; Isabel Dunnigan; Frederica Jacobs

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:14 p.m.

1.1 **Approval of Agenda**

R-2016-7-4 *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 September 16, 2016

R-2016-7-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 16, 2016 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's remarks are summarized as follows:

- ⇒ He was thrilled that Homa Hoodfar is back in Montreal and thanked everyone who worked tirelessly to secure her release and to protect academic freedom.
- ⇒ He requested a moment of silence in memory of Francie Beresford, who passed away on September 29. Francie was a long-time employee who was appreciated by so many for her wonderful spirit and dedication to Concordia.
- ⇒ He underlined the recent appointments of Graham Carr (Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs), Justin Powlowski (Interim Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies) and Lynne Hughes and Ferhat Khendek (Interim Associate Vice-Presidents, Research), thanking them for accepting to serve in those positions.
- ⇒ He urged Senators to attend the convocation ceremonies on November 7, the eScape conference on October 19 and the Open House on October 29.
- ⇒ Concordia University Press is celebrating its first anniversary.
- ⇒ Employees have until 5 p.m. today to apply for the Voluntary Retirement Program.

4. Academic update (Document US-2016-7-D2)

Dr. Carr summarized the highlights of his written report.

In addition to the information provided in his report, he added that, for the first time in a long time, the University has received strategic research grant funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. Dr. Muthukumaran Packirisamy, from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, was awarded a \$340,500 grant over three years.

At the Provost's invitation, Dr. Beaudry updated Senators on the progress of phase 3 of the Webster library renovations and their impact on part of the collections.

CONSENT

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2016-7-D3)

R-2016-7-6 *That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2016-7-D3 (Revised), be approved.*

6. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2016-7-D4)

6.1 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

6.1.1 School of Canadian Irish Studies (Document US-2016-7-D5)

6.1.2 Department of Physics (Document US-2016-7-D6)

R-2016-7-7 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2016-7-D5 and D6, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2016-7-D4.*

6.2 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science – Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2016-7-D7)

R-2016-7-8 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Document US-2016-7-D7, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2016-7-D4.*

6.3 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts – Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (Documents US-2016-7-D8 and D9)

R-2016-7-9 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, outlined in Documents US-2016-7-D8 and D9, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2016-7-D4.*

6.4 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

6.4.1 Département d'Études françaises (Document US-2016-7-D10)

6.4.2 Department of Geography, Planning and Environment (Document US-2016-7-D11)

6.4.3 Department of Physics (Document US-2016-7-D12)

6.4.4 Department of Political Science (Document US-2016-7-D13)

R-2016-7-10 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2016-7-D10 to D13, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2016-7-D4.*

6.5 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science – Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2016-7-D14)

R-2016-7-11 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Document US-2016-7-D14, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2016-7-D4.*

6.6 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts – Department of Art History
(Document US-2016-7-D15)

R-2016-7-12 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, outlined in Document US-2016-7-D15, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2016-7-D4.*

REGULAR

7. Finance Committee report (Document US-2016-7-D16)

No questions were asked in connection with this report.

8. Establishment of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering (Document US-2016-7-D17)

Dean Asif provided a summary of the background which led to the proposal to establish the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering (CME). He reiterated the uniqueness of the program, specifying that it will support three of the strategic directions and will address the current gender imbalance in engineering. A comprehensive presentation was given at the May 13, 2016 meeting of Senate for information, the details of which are included in the Minutes as well as the documentation provided to Senators for today's meeting.

As a follow-up to questions which arose from the aforementioned presentation, work was done during the Summer to review the proposal and to focus on consolidating the elements with respect to budget and space considerations.

Dean Asif reviewed the projected enrolments over a period of six years. In steady state, the Department is expected to generate a surplus ranging from \$2.5 to \$3.5 million based on a projection of 1,750 to 2,000 Weighted FTEs. He continued the presentation by showing the status of the current space occupied by ENCS programs and the projected space needs of the CME programs and provided information regarding the proposed space plan for the next three years, which would result in the Department being initially housed in the Science Complex at Loyola for the 2018/2019 academic year.

R-2016-7-13 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the establishment of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, as set out in Document US-2016-7-D17.*

9. Recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Senate Eligibility Requirements
(Document US-2016-7-D18)

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Senate Eligibility Requirements (the "Ad Hoc Committee"), David Morris, presented the highlights of the Committee's report and recommendation.

He indicated that currently, under article 63 of the By-Laws, in order to be eligible to serve on Senate, students must be registered in a program, be in good academic standing and not have charges upheld against them under the *Academic Code of Conduct* or the *Code of Rights and Responsibilities*.

The Ad Hoc Committee was established by Steering Committee of Senate, following the debate of two proposals, one presented by the Concordia Student Union, the other by the University, at the April 2016 Senate meeting, neither of which were approved.

Prof. Morris summarized the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation which aims to:

- Maintain the requirement that students be registered in a program.
- Effect some housekeeping changes to reflect the previous addition of a librarian as a member of Senate and the use in the calendars of the term "acceptable academic standing" in lieu of "good standing".
- Enshrine the current practice of the Secretary of Senate with respect to the verification of the academic standing twice a year. This is to specify a timeline for fixing issues of standing, in response to concerns voiced in April 2016.
- Decouple student eligibility on Senate from the *Academic Code of Conduct* or the *Code of Rights and Responsibilities*, add the requirement that all Senators not be subject to suspension or expulsion (or termination in case of faculty and staff), and add further rules in connection with vacated seats as well as a reference to Senate's Code of Ethics, to indicate that the primary responsibility regarding conduct rests with the constituency making the appointment.

Prof. Morris explained that the above modifications are being proposed for reasons of fairness, justice, workability and to promote mutual trust between constituencies. He made the point that was a spectrum of opinions on the Ad Hoc Committee, that the proposal before Senate is the result of a compromise which grew out of the discussions and contributes to moving us in a new direction which better fits our community spirit.

R-2016-7-14 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Senate Eligibility Requirements, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the revisions to Article 63 of the University By-Laws as outlined in Document US-2016-7-D18; and

That appropriate language be added to the Graduate and Undergraduate calendars and relevant derivative documents to indicate that being in failed or conditional standing can have implications for non-academic activities, including service on some University governing bodies.

Following the vote, Ms. Sahrane requested a notation in the Minutes that, although she had voted in favor of the motion, she was voicing the CSU's dissatisfaction that independent students and students in conditional standing are not eligible to serve on Senate.

10. Annual report of the Academic Hearing Panel (Document US-2016-7-D19)

Me Melodie Sullivan presented the highlights of the report, which is provided for information purposes. A suggestion was made that the report could also specify the type of sanctions imposed.

11. Question period

The President sought Senate's sense about the timing of the University's Reading Week in relation to the timing of Spring Break at other institutions. It was noted that while the timing might vary, typically Spring Break for elementary and secondary schools is held during the first week of March. The point was also made that Reading Week for most Quebec universities is also held during the first week of March. Prof. Shepard asked the Registrar to look into the possibility of changing Concordia's calendar accordingly for the 2017/2018 academic year.

When queried whether Dr. Carr will have held a senior administrative position for ten years without any evaluation, the President made the point that the senior administrative appointment policy calls for an evaluation to be conducted when a senior administrator is seeking to be reappointed for a second mandate in the same position, which is not the case.

12. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the Open Session.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate