

UNIVERSITY SENATEMINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2001ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Prof. M. Danis; Dr. J. Lightstone; Ms. L. Accary; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Ms. C. Basmaji; Prof. C. Bayne; Dean C. Bédard; Mr. A. Beedassy; Mr. P. Blais; Prof. W. Bukowski; Mr. B. Desgreniers; Dean N. Esmail; Ms. S. Friesinger; Prof. M. Gourlay; Prof. V. S. Hoa; Dean C. Jackson; Ms. C. Leduc; Mr. R. Luppicini; Mr. A. McAusland; Prof. D. Morin; Ms. M. Mullarkey; Mr. A. Munro; Mr. S. Nazzal; Prof. S. Panet-Raymond; Prof. L. Roberge; Dr. W. Sellers; Prof. H. Shulman; Dean M. Singer; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Ms. S. Stea; Interim Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. C. Vallejo

ABSENT: Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Prof. A. Ahmad; Dr. D. Boisvert; Prof. C. Cupples; Mr. W. Curran; Prof. A. English; Prof. E. Jacobs; Ms. L. Prendergast; Prof. P. Rist; Prof. P. Thornton; Prof. R. Tremblay

ALSO ATTENDING: Me Bram Freedman; Dr. R. Oppenheimer

Documents associated with the Minutes

US-2001-8-D2	Committee appointments
US-2001-8-D3	Document regarding GSA accreditation polling
US-2001-8-D4	Report from Academic Programs Committee
US-2001-8-D5 to D9	Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
US-2001-8-D10	Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts
US-2001-8-D11	Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
US-2001-8-D12 to D14	Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
US-2001-8-D15	Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts
US-2001-8-D16	Revisions to policy regarding writing examinations at an external institution

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2001-8-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Bédard, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved as submitted.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held September 14, 2001

R-2001-8-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Tomberlin, Al-Khalili), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 14, 2001 be approved as submitted.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Concordia Centraide Campaign

Dr. O'Brien invited Dr. Danielle Morin, Associate Dean of the John Molson School of Business and Centraide campaign Co-Chair, to address Senate. Dr. Morin explained that Centraide is an umbrella funding organization for over 300 organizations in the Greater Montreal area. She emphasized the ever-increasing need and the importance to give back to the community. Appeals have been made to staff, faculty members, senior administrators and students for their contribution to this worthy cause. Moreover, for the first time this year, Concordia retirees have also been solicited.

Dr. Morin introduced Mr. Mark Branch, alumnus of Concordia and Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Lasalle, a beneficiary of Centraide funding. The Club serves approximately 500 children a year, ranging in ages from 3 to 18 years old. It offers various pre-school, after-school and evening activities. Namely, together with the YMCA, it has set up the *First Stop Program*, a prevention program aimed to help runaways. Mr. Branch affirmed that the Boys and Girls Club could not function without the money received from Centraide, which represents one-third of its budget. In closing, he urged all Senators to give generously.

6. Remarks from the Rector

Dr. Lowy restated the message conveyed by Dr. Morin and Mr. Branch. If not for Centraide, many social services would not be provided. Dr. Lowy encouraged a greater participation rate.

The official statistics from CRÉPUQ confirm that of all the Quebec universities, Concordia has experienced the largest overall increase in registration, being 7.2%. In terms of new registrations at the undergraduate level, the increase represents 10.8%.

Dr. Lowy was pleased to report on the impressive progress of the construction of the Loyola Science Building. Further, the project is on schedule and on budget.

All universities are anxiously awaiting the upcoming budget of Quebec Finance Minister Pauline Marois. Despite some rumors of cutbacks, there is reason to believe that the commitments made to education will be respected. CRÉPUQ has made representations to Premier Landry and Minister Marois to uphold their promises.

Lastly, Dr. Lowy apprised Senate of the proposals made by all Canadian universities to the Federal Government regarding a 40% allocation to fund the indirect cost of research, which is comprised of the overhead expenses related to research. The Quebec Government currently reimburses 15% of the indirect cost of research while other provinces do not provide any funding whatsoever. Hopes are that the Federal Government will agree to fund at least 25% of the cost.

7. Items for Information

Speaker O'Brien recalled that, at last the Senate meeting, procedural matters in regards to voting were referred to Steering Committee. Steering Committee considered the matter and concluded that the exact number of votes should not be recorded in the Minutes when there is a unanimous vote or when there is a clear indication. However, when a vote is

relatively close, the number of yeas and nays will be counted and recorded in the Minutes. Abstentions will be recorded upon specific request only.

Dr. O'Brien further informed Senate that a Task Force to propose permanent evaluation procedures for incumbent senior administrators had been struck by the Board of Governors. Following the Task Force's first meeting, the Secretary of Senate has been asked to solicit the comments of Senate, the Faculty Councils and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies. The request for comments has been forwarded to the aforementioned Councils and will be presented to Senate at its January meeting.

The Provost and Vice-Rector Research, Dr. Jack Lightstone, was delighted to announce the re-appointment of Dr. Balbir Sahni as Director of the Centre for International Academic Cooperation for another five-year term and the appointment of Dr. Robert J. Oppenheimer as Director of the Centre for Mature Students. Dr. Lightstone extended his appreciation to Dr. Randy Swedburg and Dr. Jim Jans who had shepherded the Centre during the search for the new incumbent.

Dr. Lightstone apprised Senate of the upcoming meeting of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities (SCAPP), during which formal reports will be given by the Faculty Councils, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies and the University Library regarding their planning mandate. The preliminary Operating and Capital 2001-2002 budgets will be discussed and final figures for the 2000-2001 Operating Budget will be disclosed. The members of SCAPP will also review the modalities relating to the University Writing Test. A huge number of students enter their last year of studies without having completed the test. Although the test is a graduation requirement, its primary objective is to aid students early on in their studies.

Finally, in light of the increasing wireless capacity of classrooms, laboratories and libraries, Dr. Lightstone informed Senate that options are being examined to enable students to purchase laptop computer at a reasonable cost.

CSU representative Patrice Blais mentioned that Sheryll Navidad, former CSU Vice-President Finance, had been formally charged with fraud.

Ms. Sabrina Stea conveyed her resignation as CSU President, effective October 15, 2001, at 5 p.m. and read a statement articulating her reasons for resigning.

Dean Tomberlin reported that the John Molson School of Business placed 44th in the first *Financial Times* of London ranking of Executive MBA programs around the world. The School ranked among the top three Canadian business schools in the survey.

8. Question period

Prof. Panet-Raymond noticed that a photographer was present at the meeting and enquired as to the purpose of the photographs. The photographer replied that the shots would not be printed in any particular publication but were being taken for her own personal use. Responding to a comment, Mr. Munro stated that consent to use photos is not required for public figures. A discussion followed on whether or not Senators are public figures, after which Dr. O'Brien said that this issue would be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting. Prof. Panet-Raymond specifically requested that her objection to being photographed be noted in the Minutes.

Mr. Blais informed Senate that, on October 18, members of CSU Executive and Board of Directors had received letters, delivered by bailiff, to their personal addresses. The addresses had not been released by the CSU, and it was clear to Mr. Blais that they had

been supplied by the University because of the nature of some discrepancies. Mr. Blais expressed grave concern of a breach of confidentiality. Me Bram Freedman, the University's General Counsel, had no knowledge of the event but agreed to look into this matter with the Registrar.

Mr. Munro reported a complaint received by the CSU regarding a Communication Studies professor. Dr. Lightstone asked Mr. Munro to email him the details and the name of the professor and undertook to look into the matter.

Referring to a statement made by B'nai Brith linking the CSU to Osama Bin Laden, Mr. Desgreniers asked why the University had not made a counter statement. Dr. Lowy reminded Senate that a general statement had been issued to the community a few weeks ago regarding the non-tolerance of any form of harassment or violence. However, the University has no relationship with B'nai Brith. Nonetheless, Dr. Lowy did reassure Mr. Desgreniers that he does not believe CSU members to be terrorists.

Ms. Accary asked Dean Esmail to comment on two sexist and demeaning comments contained in the ECA newsletter. Dean Esmail, who had not read the publication, indicated he would review same and get back to Ms. Accary.

9. Appointments to Senate Committees

R-2001-8-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Bédard), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to Senate Committees, as set out in Document US-2001-8-D2 be approved.*

10. Graduate Students' Association Accreditation Polling

Dr. Lightstone specified that no campaigning should be done during the classroom visits and asked that this be inscribed in the Minutes.

R-2001-8-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Luppisini, Friesinger), it was unanimously resolved:*

Whereas the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) wishes to accredit under Bill 3.01 and will hold an accreditation drive from October 15, 2001 until October 27, 2001;

Whereas under the provincial law concerning accreditation, the University must provide assistance to the accreditation drive;

Whereas the procedures approved by the Ministry of Education allow polling clerks to visit classrooms in order to obtain a sufficient turnout to reach quorum during the drive;

Whereas as a complementary measure of reaching graduate students who do not attend classes, the GSA will mail polling materials complete with explanations and return envelopes to the GSA;

Whereas as an additional complementary measure of reaching graduate students, graduate students will also be able to vote at a polling station which will be set up on both campuses on alternating polling days;

That Senate allow the GSA accreditation polling clerks to visit classrooms during the first five minutes of class in order to allow the accreditation drive to proceed with the

understanding that classes will be visited only once during the period and that polling clerks will not interrupt any class with a mid-term in progress.

11. Recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee

11.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

Referring to Document US-2001-8-D9, Dean Singer was pleased to report that this was a historic moment for the Faculty of Arts and Science with regards to the implementation of the first stage of the general education requirement for students entering next September. He thanked Dr. Bill Byers who had chaired the General Education Committee. He asked that speaking privileges be granted to Dr. Byers as well as to Prof. Joanne Locke for any general curriculum questions.

As Chair of the Academic Programs Committee (APC), Dr. Lightstone drew attention to the third paragraph of APC's report regarding the inclusion of courses from other Faculties in the general education curricula of Arts and Science. While Dr. Singer indicated openness to such course inclusions, he did underline that they must be coherent with the Faculty of Arts and Science's notion of general education. To achieve this objective, Dr. Byers invited the other Faculties to name a representative to participate in the Arts and Science meeting. A discussion ensued during which Dean Singer and Dr. Lightstone addressed concerns pertaining to student input to the curriculum process and academic planning.

R-2001-8-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Shulman), it was resolved with a majority that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Senate Documents US-2001-8-D5 to D9, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Senate Document US-2001-8-D4.

11.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts

R-2001-8-9 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Jackson, Panet-Raymond), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Senate Document US-2001-8-D10, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Senate Document US-2001-8-D4.

11.3 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Dean Esmail responded to the questions that arose from his moving, seconded by Prof. Stathopoulos, that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Senate Document US-2001-8-D11, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Senate Document US-2001-8-D4.

With respect to calculation of the grade point average mentioned in paragraphs E25 and E26 of Document US-2001-8-D11, Mr. Blais enquired about the practices in the other Faculties. Dr. Morin answered on behalf of the John Molson School of Business. Dean Singer and Dean Jackson were not in a position to respond for their respective Faculty but agreed to report back to the next Senate meeting. As a result of the foregoing, Mr. Blais felt he had insufficient information to make his decision and moved, seconded by Prof. Panet-Raymond, that the approval of the aforementioned paragraphs be tabled. The motion to table was defeated with 9 in favor and 11 against.

Mr. Blais then moved, seconded by Mr. Nazzal, to divide the question so that paragraphs E25 and E26 be considered separately. The motion to divide was passed with 13 in favor and 7 against.

The vote was taken on the first motion.

R-2001-8-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Esmail, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Sciences, set out in Senate Document US-2001-8-D11, excluding paragraphs E25 and D26, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Senate Document US-2001-8-D4.*

A lengthy discussion followed on the second motion. While Mr. Blais, Ms. Stea and Mr. Munro reiterated that they had insufficient information, Dr. Lightstone pointed out that the underlying premise of consistency among Faculties is incorrect since Faculty Councils can adopt their own rules for Faculty medals and awards. Furthermore, Dr. Morin and Dean Tomberlin added that Senate depends on the work of its sub-committees, such as APC. Students sit on those bodies and the question should have been raised at that point in the process.

R-2001-8-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Esmail, Stathopoulos), it was resolved with a majority (Messrs. Blais and Desgreniers having specifically requested that their abstention be recorded) that paragraphs E25 and E26 set out in Senate Document US-2001-8-D11, relating to major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Sciences, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Senate Document US-2001-8-D4.*

11.4 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

11.5 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts

The above-captioned changes are submitted to Senate for information purposes only.

11.6 Revisions to the policy regarding writing examinations at an external institution

R-2001-8-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lightstone, Bédard), it was unanimously resolved that the revisions to the policy pertaining to writing examinations at an external institution, set out in Senate Document US-2001-8-D16, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Senate Document US-2001-8-D4.*

12. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate is scheduled for Friday, November 9, 2001, at 2 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m., on a motion moved by Mr. Blais and seconded by Prof. Vallejo.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors and Senate