



US-2005-2

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

Held on Friday, March 4, 2005, at 2 p.m.,  
in Room SP 265-9, Loyola Campus

**PRESENT**

**Voting members:** Ms. A. Beck; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. T. Byrnes; Prof. A.-M. Croteau, Prof. M. Doyle; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Dean N. Esmail; Ms. M. Etezadbrojerdi; Mr. B. Farrington; Prof. J. Grant; Ms. M. Gruber; Mr. B. Hamideh, Dean C. Jackson; Prof. E. Jacobs; Prof. R. Kilgour; Dr. F. Lowy; Prof. C. MacKenzie; Mr. G. Papadakis; Mr. C. Schwartz; Prof. H. Shulman; Dr. M. Singer; Ms. J. St-Germain; Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. R. Tremblay; Prof. C. Trueman; Prof. C. Vallejo; Prof. D. Vivian

**Non-voting members:** Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Me P. Fréreau; Mr. A. McAusland; Dr. J. W. O'Brien (*Speaker*)

**Also present:** Prof. J. Capobianco (Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science); Mr. R. Côté (Acting Registrar), Prof. T. Stathopoulos (Acting Dean, School of Graduate Studies)

**ABSENT**

**Voting members:** Mr. M. Al-Ken; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Dean J. Chaikelson; Ms. K. Childs; Prof. J. Etezadi; Prof. A.M. Hanna; Mr. R. Luppicini; Dean E. Sacca; Prof. A. Satir; Mr. A. Slater; Dr. T. Vo-Van

**Non-voting members:** Mr. W. Curran; Prof. M. Danis; Ms. L. Healey; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Dr. R.O. Wills (*Deputy Speaker*)

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. O'Brien at 2:12 p.m.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. O'Brien apprised Senate that a revised Agenda has been distributed at the meeting.

R-2005-2-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Farrington, Jacobs), it was unanimously resolved that the revised Agenda be approved.*

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 14, 2005**

R-2005-2-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Vallejo), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 14, 2005 be approved.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Update on searches:

5.1 Progress report from the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Fine Arts

Dr. Singer reported that the search for a Dean of Fine Arts was moving less quickly than the search for the Dean of Arts and Science. The Advisory Search Committee's next meeting is scheduled on March 14, with public meetings scheduled to be held towards the end of March. Dr. Singer said that the committee has received over thirty-five applications, and more continue to arrive from across North America and elsewhere in the world.

5.2 Progress report from the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Arts and Science

Dr. Singer apprised Senate that the Advisory Search Committee was meeting later this day to establish the short-list of candidates who will be making public presentations. He said that the list was narrowed down from more than fifty applications to eight possible candidates, three or four of whom will be retained by the Committee to comprise the short-list.

The public presentations are scheduled to be held on March 9, 10, 11 and 14, depending upon the number of short-listed candidates, and each candidate will meet with a cross-section of groups from the University community (President, Department Chairs, Interim Dean and Vice-Deans of the Faculty, members of the Faculty Advisory Board, members of the President's Cabinet, students, members of the Advisory Search Committee and the Provost). Dr. Singer encouraged Senators to attend the public presentations and to provide feedback to the Advisory Search Committee. The Advisory Search Committee's recommendation will be presented for approval by the Board of Governors at its meeting of April 28.

6. Approval of revisions to Senate membership (Documents US-2004-5-26, US-2005-2-D3 and D4)

Dr. O'Brien reminded Senate that this matter had been discussed and tabled at the last Senate meeting. The mover and seconder of the motion at that meeting, Dr. Singer and Prof. Vivian respectively, agreed to substitute for that motion the following:

*WHEREAS at its meeting of May 21, 2004, Senate approved in principle revisions to its voting membership, subject to changes being brought to the appointment method of the part-time faculty members, as set out in Document US-2004-5-D26;*

*WHEREAS Senate Steering Committee has received confirmation, to its satisfaction, that the aforementioned changes have been brought;*

*WHEREAS, further to reorganizations and the creation of new vice-president and/or academic positions, Senate Steering Committee has deemed advisable to update the non-voting membership of Senate;*

*I move that, upon recommendation of Senate Steering Committee, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors that it approve the revised composition of the membership of Senate, as set out in Document US-2005-2-D4.*

Before engaging in the discussion, Dr. O'Brien recapitulated the various stages of the process which had begun two years ago with the request for increased representation by graduate students and part-time faculty members and which had resulted the adoption in principle at the May 21, 2004 meeting of the revised composition of the voting membership, as set out document US-2004-5-D26, pending changes to the CUPFA collective agreement regarding the appointment method of the part-time faculty members.

To facilitate the discussion, Dr. O'Brien suggested that it be divided into three parts, as follows:

- 1) Senate would deal with the approval of the revisions to the voting membership, approved in principle last May;
- 2) Senate would then deal with the approval of the revisions to the non-voting membership subsequent to last May's discussion, and which are now being proposed by Steering Committee to take into account the change in titles, the creation of new positions, and reorganizations; and
- 3) Lastly, Senate would discuss any other ideas regarding changes to Senate membership not included in the above proposal.

#### Voting membership

At the request of Prof. Doyle, speaking privileges were granted to CUPFA President Maria Peluso. The latter informed Senators that the election process is detailed in CUPFA constitution, which is posted on their website. Prof. Peluso said that to be eligible to represent CUPFA, individuals must hold a part-time teaching contract in the Faculty that they are going to represent. She also explained the nomination and election process, while specifying that the election is conducted by an external lawyer.

With respect to the number of undergraduate students proposed, Ms. Beck opined that the current proposal does not reflect the objectives set out in the Provost's academic plan. She felt that twelve undergraduates and three graduates, as opposed to the proposal of eleven versus four, would be a more accurate and fair distribution of student seats. Moreover, she pointed out the possibility of double representation given that graduate students also teach courses part-time. Dr. Singer replied that he would be guided by Dr. O'Brien's comments, while adding that his academic plan spells out objectives that have yet to be reached. Regarding the issue of double representation, Prof. Peluso stated that graduate students who teach do not participate in the CUPFA elections. Prof. Vallejo regretted that, at a time when the University is wishing to increase its research profile, those who are hired to do the research, i.e., the full-time faculty members, will suffer a decrease in their proportional representation at Senate.

A motion was moved by Mr. Farrington, seconded by Ms. Gruber, to modify the proposed voting membership to provide for twelve undergraduate students and three graduate students. A discussion ensued on the amendment, at which time some Senators commented on the absence of proportional distribution of the undergraduate student seats according to faculty enrolments, while others stated that graduate students represent the research aspect and must have adequate representation on Senate. Further to this discussion, the vote was called and the amendment was defeated by a majority. The vote on the main motion regarding the voting membership was then taken.

R-2005-2-3 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Vivian), it was resolved with a majority (Beck, Farrington, Gruber and Schwartz requesting that their dissent be recorded in the Minutes) that, upon recommendation of Senate Steering Committee, Senate recommend to*

*the Board of Governors that it approve the revised composition of the voting membership of Senate, as set out in Document US-2005-2-D4.*

### Non-voting membership

There was no discussion on the proposed revisions to the non-voting membership.

R-2005-2-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Vivian), it was resolved with a majority that, upon recommendation of Senate Steering Committee, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors that it approve the revised composition of the non-voting membership of Senate, as set out in Document US-2005-2-D4.*

### Other suggestions

Dr. O'Brien identified other matters which were raised at today's meeting or during past discussions and which could be considered by Steering Committee at a future date as follows:

- appropriateness of undergraduate representation;
- appropriateness of representation of faculty members of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science;
- representation of students in accordance to Faculty enrolments.

In closing this matter, Dr. O'Brien urged Senators to forward their suggestions regarding future revisions to the composition of Senate to Ms. Tessier. He also specified that the revised composition will only come into effect once it has been approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting of April 28, 2005.

### 7. Revisions to the mandate of the Research Committee (Document US-2005-2-D2)

It was moved by Dr. Singer and seconded by Dr. Lowy that, upon the recommendation of Senate Steering Committee, the revisions to the mandate of the Research Committee, as outlined in Document US-2005-2-D2, be approved.

Senators commented on the vagueness in the mandate in connection with the support for research, the insufficient number of graduate students sitting on the committee, and the necessity for a review of this document by the Faculty Councils. Thus, it was agreed that the proposed revisions of the mandate of the Research Committee be referred to the Faculty Councils and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies for their input prior to having the mandate approved by Senate.

Dr. Lowy indicated that he would convey the aforementioned discussion to Dr. Vo-Van so that the latter forward the proposed revised mandate, together a memo detailing the rationale for the changes, to the Councils.

### 8. Committee appointments (Document US-2005-2-D1)

R-2005-2-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Byrnes), it was unanimously resolved that the appointments to Senate committees, set out in Document US-2005-2-D1 (revised), be approved.*

### 9. Remarks from the President

Dr. Lowy began by expressing that he was delighted by the many ongoing fundraising activities under the leadership of Kathy Assayag.

The President then gave a detailed explanation regarding the distinction between academic and professional senior administrative positions. Historically, up until 1995, most senior administrators, except for the Secretary-General, were also academics. However, the challenges associated with the University's growth in size and in complexity over the past 10 years have created the necessity to hire individuals with the relevant professional experience and expertise in some fields, namely finance (Larry English), services (Michael Di Grappa) and more recently, advancement (Kathy Assayag) and government relations (Marcel Danis). Dr. Lowy also explained the reasons for abolishing the position of Vice-President, Institutional Relations and Secretary-General and creating the position of Vice-President, External Relations and Secretary-General.

In the process of searching for and hiring these professional administrators, Dr. Lowy said that it had become apparent that the search process and the contractual terms appropriate and traditional for academic administrators are not especially suited to non academic professional administrators, and he gave several examples in support thereof. As a result, to effect the differentiation he will be recommending that changes be brought to the current senior administrative search rules. He also mentioned that a working group, headed by Me Rita de Santis, had been established by the Executive Committee to look into this matter.

Speaking privileges were granted to Dr. David Frost, CUFA President, who voiced his distress that the change to Marcel Danis' position had been approved during the Closed Session of the Board which, in his view, violated both the Board rules and the CUFA collective agreement.

While understanding the necessity to distinguish professional searches from academic ones, some Senators opined that this should not have been done before the appropriate changes had been made to existing policies, and they noted that this way of proceeding created a disservice to the person holding the position. Others stated the importance of the voice and input of the various constituents in the University community in the selection process of senior administrators to ensure that those chosen are connected to Concordia's values. Each Senator who spoke agreed that Senate should be associated with the process of any policy change and felt that the Board should be made aware of this fact. Dr. Lowy agreed that this can be a divisive issue and stated no objection that this matter be brought back to Senate for further discussion.

10. Items for information

Dean Esmail was pleased to announce that the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science had been granted two additional Canada Research Chairs, a Tier-I level for the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering and a Tier II level chair for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Mr. Farrington spoke of the vast mobilization of students across Quebec over the next two weeks to exert pressure on the Quebec government to put funds back into student loans and bursaries, including a student strike planned for March 16, in which students from the four Montreal universities will participate. He informed professors that they should be receiving a letter from the Provost asking them to grant academic amnesty, when possible, to those students who will participate in the student strike.

Mr. Farrington added that a letter should also be sent shortly by the Provost urging professors to allow students to leave class 15 minutes early to vote in the upcoming student elections which will be held at the end of March.

11. Question period

Prof. Croteau asked for an update on the status of the presidential search. However, no one was in a position to respond to her query.

12. Other business

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

13. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, April 1, 2005, at 2 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate