

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION  
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, September 21, 2007, immediately after  
the Closed Session meeting  
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room  
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Mr. W. Chan; Prof. R. Cross; Dr. L. Dandurand; Prof. O. Dyens; Dean N. Esmail; Mr. A.D. Fernandes; Prof. B. Gamoy; Dean D. Graham; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. S. Jack; Ms. K. Kashfi; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. E. Mongerson; Prof. N. Nixon; Ms. A. Novoa; Ms. A. Peek; Prof. M. Pugh; Mr. J. Redler; Ms. C. Reimer; Prof. C. Ross; Dean S. Sharma; Prof. F. Shaver; Prof. P. Stoett; Prof. C. Trueman; Dean C. Wild

Non-voting members: Mr. R. Côté; Mr. W. Curran; Me M. Danis; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Mr. L. English; Ms. L. Healey; Mr. A. McAusland; Dr. J. W. O'Brien (*Speaker*)

ABSENT

Voting members: Ms. V. Allard; Prof. M. Jamal; Prof. B. Nelson; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Me P. Fréreau

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:17p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Dr. O'Brien pointed out that item 8 on the revised Agenda sent on September 14 would not be dealt with today and deferred to a future meeting. He also pointed out that a revised version of Document US-2007-8-D2 under item 6 has been distributed.

R-2007-8-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Wild, Chan), it was unanimously resolved that the revised Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of June 15, 2007

R-2007-8-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Reimer), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of June 15, 2007 be approved.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Election of the faculty members of the Steering Committee (Document US-2007-8-D1)

Dr. O'Brien conveyed that the terms of reference of Senate Steering Committee provide for one faculty member from each of the John Molson School of Business (JMSB), the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS) and the Faculty of Fine Arts (FA) and two from the Faculty of Arts and Science (A&S). He gave the instructions in relation to the voting and to the eligibility requirements to sit on Steering Committee.

The following faculty members were elected by acclamation since they were the only eligible members from their Faculty not teaching at the usual time of Steering Committee meetings: Juan Segovia (JMSB) and Eric Mongerson (FA). Arpi Hamalian was elected as one of the representatives of A&S after the first round of voting, while Peter Stoett was elected as the second representative of A&S and Christopher Trueman as the representative for ENCS after the second round.

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2007-8-D2 (revised))

R-2007-8-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lajeunesse, Shaver), it was unanimously resolved that the committee appointments, as outlined in Document US-2007-8-D2 (revised), be approved.*

7. Reappointment of Tribunal Hearing Chairs (Document US-2007-8-D3)

R-2007-8-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lajeunesse, Kashfi), it was unanimously resolved that the reappointment of the Tribunal Hearing Chairs, as set out in Document US-2007-8-D3, be approved.*

8. Recommendation regarding an amendment to article 41 h) of the University By-Laws with respect to the composition of Senate (Document US-2007-8-D4)

As indicated by the Speaker at the beginning of the meeting, this item is deferred to a future meeting.

9. Revisions to the membership of the Fine Arts Faculty Council (Document US-2007-8-D5)

R-2007-8-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Wild, Mongerson), it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Fine Arts Faculty Council, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the revisions to the membership of the Fine Arts Faculty Council, as outlined in Document US-2007-8-D5.*

10. Revisions to the membership of the Arts and Science Faculty Council (Document US-2007-8-D6)

R-2007-8-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Arts and Science Faculty Council, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the revisions to the membership of the Arts and Science Faculty Council, as outlined in Document US-2007-8-D6.*

11. Recommendation respecting the change of name of the School of "General Studies" (Document US-2007-8-D7)

Speaking privileges were granted to Mr. Noel Burke, Dean of the School of "General Studies". Referring to Document US-2007-8-D7, Mr. Burke specified that, further to the survey conducted over the summer, he had received near unanimous positive feedback with respect to the proposed name.

R-2007-8-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lajeunesse, Graham), it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Dean of the School of "General Studies", Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the renaming of the School of "General Studies" to School of Extended Learning, as detailed in Document US-2007-8-D7.*

12. Comments on the profile of the ideal candidate for a Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2007-8-D8)

It was suggested that the qualification listed in both profiles with respect to the "*ability to function in both English and in French is a distinct advantage*" was awkwardly stated and should be reworded.

13. Comments on the profile of the ideal candidate for a University Librarian (Document US-2007-8-D9)

It was suggested to incorporate the qualification found in the above Dean's profile regarding "*the ability to work effectively within a collegial system of governance, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of faculty members, Board and Senate in academic governance*" into that of the University Librarian.

14. Presentation on strategic initiatives (Document US-2007-8-D13 was not distributed)

Dr. Lajeunesse explained that he would not be making a formal presentation and therefore no document would be distributed at this time. He stated his belief that a strategic plan must be based on strong principles which he referred to as the four "i": integrity, intelligence, inclusiveness and implementation. A short term action plan will address some issues until such time that the strategic plan is adopted, and the performance indicators developed in the past two years will monitor their progress.

The President added that he had received a late request to make a presentation at the September 18 Board meeting, which had not allowed him time to consult with the Deans. This became a moot point since the presentation did not go forward at the Board. For those reasons, he did not feel that it was appropriate to make a full presentation today and in lieu thereof he would convey some of the main points.

Dr. Lajeunesse noted that five groups had presented reports during a recent two-day senior administration retreat. Based on solid data, the University's strengths and weaknesses were identified. Concordia's strengths are its people (employees, engaged alumni, donors, and volunteer members of the external community), its values (based on its mission of approachability, diversity, quality education and research, daring) and its assets (a strong academic plan unanimously adopted by the Faculty Councils and Senate, the Montreal location, government support).

Dr. Lajeunesse concluded by mentioning that the strategic plan needs to be discussed at the Academic Cabinet and analyzed by the President's Executive Group prior to being presented to Senate and the Board. He noted that in the meantime the University will continue to act strategically while it is developing the plan. However, those who will be in charge will decide on the format of the consultation process.

15. Remarks from the President

15.1 Update on the search for a Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs (Document US-2007-8-D10)

Dr. Lajeunesse apprised Senate that the committee had met this morning and focused its discussion on whether or not the search should continue. The committee was divided on this question. It was decided to delay the consideration of the two applications and one nomination until such time that the Board of Governors will have decided to suspend or continue the search at its meeting of October 18. Should the Board decide to continue the search, the committee would meet shortly thereafter to resume its activities.

Further to a comment on the format and content of the written update, it was agreed that this document was intended solely for Senators and should be removed from the website. Moreover, it was agreed that an item be included on the Agenda of the next Senate Steering Committee with respect to Senate's opinion on the fact that we do not have a Provost.

15.2 Update on the search for a Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Dr. Lajeunesse informed Senators that Dr. Dandurand has assumed the Chair of the search committee. The draft profile for ideal candidate was prepared by the committee and circulated for comments to the various constituencies. The final version will be sent to the October Board meeting for approval. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for early October, at which time the members will review the long-list of interested applicants.

15.3 Update on the search for a University Librarian

Dr. Lajeunesse indicated that Dean Esmail has assumed the Chair of the search committee. The draft profile for ideal candidate was prepared by the committee and circulated for comments to the various constituencies. The final version will also be sent to the October Board meeting for approval. The committee met this morning, at which time it reviewed the long-list of interested applicants. Dr. Lajeunesse noted that there is substantial interest in this position with over 20 qualified applications having been received to date.

15.4 Stepping down of President

As posted on the University website, Dr. Lajeunesse referred to the announcement regarding the mutual agreement between himself and the Board of Governors with respect to his stepping down as President effective October 31, 2007. He said that he could not speak further to this matter.

Prof. Ross expressed concerns about the manner in which this situation was announced and handled, particularly regarding the absence of any explanation from the Board of Governors about why this happened, what does the Board want and why would the President step down after two years in office. As of October 31, the University will be in an undesirable

predicament since it will have no President and an Interim Provost. He suggested that a formal message should be sent by Senate to the Board of Governors. Dr. O'Brien indicated that this could be considered at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Prof. Hamalian opined about the unfortunate repetition of sudden decisions to terminate contracts by the higher administrative bodies at Concordia without giving reasons for the urgency of the situation. For example, the Provost stepped down half way in his first mandate and no explanations were provided for this decision. That situation was managed over a period of a whole academic year which reduced the shock effect but still remains shrouded in mystery. In the case of the President, the press release acknowledges that progress has been made on all fronts under his direction. Therefore, what was the emergency that led to the sudden decision? She questioned the lack of transparency and proper consultation on the way decisions are arrived at and voted on by the Board and spoke in favour of a participatory process in university governance. She urged the Deans and members of Senate to take the opportunity of the review of the report drafted by the Ad Hoc Committee to adopt a document framing the transparent and collegial processes of consultation and collaboration in academic governance and decision making at all levels.

16. Items for information: Reports from University Councils and Boards, Senate Committees, and reports concerning outside bodies

16.1 Annual report from the Academic Hearing Panel (Document US-2007-8-D11)

In accordance with article 69 of the Academic Code of Conduct, the report is filed for information purposes only. Ms. Nathalie Larose, Secretary of the Student Hearing Panel, was present and responded to questions from Senators in connection with the content of the report and the process of academic hearings.

16.2 Speaker of Senate (Document US-2007-8-D12)

Dr. O'Brien specified since it is unknown at this time whether or not Senate will adopted the recommendation included in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the chairing of Senate, a call for nominations will be sent shortly with a view to fill the position of Speaker of Senate which will become vacant as of next January.

16.3 Report on general academic matters

Dr. Robert Roy, Executive Vice-Provost, apprised Senate on the hiring of 51 tenured or tenure-track full time faculty members. He gave the details regarding the breakdown per Faculty, specifying that all 51 offers had been accepted which means that Concordia was successful in getting its first choice candidates. He also reported the hiring of 97 limited-term appointments and 4 extended-term appointments. With respect to sabbatical leaves, 103 applications were received by the deadline compared to 109 last year. Dr. Roy gave some statistics on enrolments and admissions, noting that at the end of the DNE date, overall enrolments are up 2.1%, representing 219 FTE, compared to last year. Further to questions regarding the attribution and reallocation of faculty positions, Dr. Dandurand indicated that she will report on the functioning of the faculty hiring pool at the next meeting.

Dr. Danielle Morin, Vice-Provost, Academic Affairs, spoke of the objective and content of the awareness campaign on academic integrity which is posted on the Office of the Provost's website. She thanked all those who participated in this endeavour. She also apprised

Senators about the StepUp course, a 24-hour non credit course designed to help students enhance their academic success, offered by the Student Transition Centre of the School of "General Studies".

17. Question period

Mr. McAusland responded to several questions regarding the use of turnitin.com. More specifically, he indicated that students may use it as an option but it is also available to researchers and faculty members via their portal. However, there is no University policy on its use and it is available primarily as a sensitization tool. He added that it is up to the academic sector to make any decisions regarding the use of turnitin.com as a tool to verify submitted work. Mr. McAusland also responded to questions of a technological nature regarding the capacity of webmail and the availability of interactive screens in classrooms.

18. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

19. Next meeting

Dr. O'Brien noted that the next meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, October 12, 2007, at 2 p.m., in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room (Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus.

20. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate