

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, December 14, 2007, immediately following
the Closed Session meeting
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Mr. M. Bani Baker; Mr. W. Chan; Prof. R. Cross; Dr. L. Dandurand; Mr. B. Derisi; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Prof. O. Dyens; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. B. Gamoy; Dean D. Graham; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. S. Jack; Prof. Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. E. Mongerson; Prof. B. Nelson; 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; Ms. M. Sheppard; Associate Dean T. Stathopoulos; Prof. C. Trueman; Dean C. Wild; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Mr. R. Côté; Mr. W. Curran; Mr. L. English; Me P. Frégeau; Ms. L. Healey; Dr. J. W. O'Brien (*Speaker*)

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. A. English; Mr. A.D. Fernandes; Mr. B. Hamideh; Prof. M. Jamal; Ms. K. Kashfi; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. P. Stoett

Non-voting member: Me M. Danis; Mr. A. McAusland

1. Call to order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Dandurand asked that item 8, Revisions to the Graduate Academic Appeals Procedures together with Document US-2007-11-D11, be removed from the Agenda.

Dr. Lynch asked that an item be added regarding the interim framework for research chairs adopted by the Senate Research Committee on December 6. However, it was agreed that this matter be raised under Other Business.

R-2007-11-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Wild), it was resolved that the Agenda be approved as amended.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 9, 2007

R-2007-11-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 9, 2007 be approved.*

4. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Report and recommendations of the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2007-11-D3 (revised))

Dr. O'Brien mentioned that a revised version of Document US-2007-11-D3 was distributed.

5.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science (Documents US-2007-11-D4 to D6)

R-2007-11-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Shaver), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Documents US-2007-11-D4 to D6, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-11-D3 (revised).*

5.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2007-11-D7)

R-2007-11-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Wild, Gamoy), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Document US-2007-11-D7, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-11-D3 (revised).*

5.3 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts (Document US-2007-11-D8)

Dr. Danielle Morin, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, apprised Senate that there was a consensus to insert the word "several" between the words "offer" and "fellowships" in the phrase "The program is able to offer fellowships" under the sub-section entitled "Fellowships and Assistantships" on page 121 of the complete curriculum document.

At the request of Dean Wild, speaking privileges were granted to Dr. Martin Lefebvre, Ph.D. Program Director in Film Studies who provided information with respect to similar program offerings at other Quebec universities, and more specifically how this program compares to the one offered by Université de Montréal as well as the level of funding available for students.

R-2007-11-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Document US-2007-11-D8, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2007-11-D3 (revised).*

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2007-11-D9 (revised))

Dr. O'Brien pointed out that a revised version of Document US-2007-11-D9 was distributed.

R-2007-11-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Sharma), it was unanimously resolved that the committee appointments, as outlined in Document US-2007-11-D9 (revised), be approved.*

7. Appointment of Tribunal Hearing Chairs (Document US-2007-11-D10)

R-2007-11-11 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that Senate approve the appointment of Tribunal Hearing Chairs, as outlined in Document US-2007-11-D10.*

8. Comments on the profile of the ideal candidate for the position of President and Vice-Chancellor (Document US-2007-11-D12)

Dr. O'Brien specified that a motion is not required, in that Senate is not asked to recommend or to approve the profile but to comment on it, in accordance with the *Rules and Procedures for Senior Administrative Appointments*. The following comments were formulated:

- How will the Committee test or evaluate the interpersonal skills?
- The Committee must take in account all the qualifications, especially the leadership skills. Members should avoid lobbying for an individual known to them who may not possess all those qualifications
- Experience in a unionized environment is not indicated in the profile and should be added
- Under Experience: operations, the word "business" should be replaced by "management" in the last bullet so that it read "Familiarity with progressive management practices in universities"

9. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance (Document US-2007-11-D13)

Dr. O'Brien mentioned that the comments received from the various councils had been summarized and were indicated in italics next to each recommendation. Senators were amenable that each recommendation be considered separately.

Recommendation 1: It was proposed to add the words "University" before "legislation" and "for information" after "reviewed" so that this recommendation now read: "Senate Steering Committee should ensure that at the beginning of every academic year all Senators receive copies of all University legislation relevant to the operation of Senate and those documents should be reviewed for information with Senators at the September Senate meeting every academic year." *Approved as revised.*

Recommendation 2: *Approved.*

Recommendation 3: Questions arose as to why APC should conduct the review rather than SCAPP. It was agreed that APC should review the structure and powers of its own sub-committees but otherwise there was no consensus on this recommendation.

Recommendation 4: The notion of engaging Senators in the affairs of Senate was reiterated as one the reasons behind this recommendation. While some Senators agreed with the spirit of this recommendation, most felt that the committees should be composed of a mix of members and non-members of Senate.

Recommendation 5: *Approved.*

Recommendation 6a: The reasons for suggesting that the Research Committee become a sub-committee of SCAPP were reiterated. However, members were not in agreement and felt that the Research Committee should remain as a principal committee of Senate.

Recommendation 6b: *Approved.*

Recommendation 6c: There was no consensus on this matter.

Recommendation 6d: *Approved.*

Recommendation 6e: Senators did not agree that the Research Committee become a sub-committee of SCAPP.

Recommendation 6f: It was indicated that the Vice-President, Finance should not chair the committee.

Recommendation 6g: It was mentioned that the Library Committee publishes a yearly report, that the University Librarian should not chair the committee and that the committee should not be relegated to the status of a sub-committee.

Recommendation 6h: It was noted that this committee does meet three or four times a year in order to adjudicate the undergraduate awards. It was suggested that APC should review the status of this sub-committee.

Recommendation 6i: It was noted that APC could review the necessity of maintaining this sub-committee.

Recommendations 6j, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d and 8: There were no comments formulated at the meeting on those recommendations, other than one member who read an extract of the By-Laws regarding the membership of the part-time faculty on Senate and asked that it remain the same.

Further to the above exercise, it was agreed that this matter be referred back to Senate Steering Committee since very few of the recommendations had actually been approved as stated.

10. Joint Senate/Board of Governors task force on university governance

Dr. Dandurand reported that she had continued the contacts she had already made with the Chair of the Board, Mr. Peter Kruyt, and that she had conveyed to him that, upon recommendation of Senate Steering Committee, Mr. Shandell Jack, to ensure that the student dimension be represented, together with Dean David Graham and herself were the three Senate representatives on the exploratory committee.

She reminded Senators of Mr. Kruyt's wish to set up an exploratory committee to determine a possible mandate for a joint Senate/Board task force. She added that Mr. Kruyt had informed her that Me Rita de Santis, Me Andrew Molson and himself were the three designated Board members to sit on the exploratory committee. It is expected that the first meeting of this committee will be convened in early January.

11. Remarks from the President

11.1 Update on the search for a Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs

Mr. Di Grappa reported that since the last Senate meeting, the Committee met on November 25 to interview two candidates. An announcement will be made next week with respect to the public presentation of those candidates in early January.

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

Dr. Dandurand reported that the Committee had met on December 11 to continue its work. Meetings are scheduled for January and February to consider candidates for the position.

13. Update on the search for a University Librarian

Dean Esmail apprised the Board that the Committee had met on November 28 to consider the three candidates who had made public presentations to the University community. The Committee agreed on a first choice candidate and discussions have been initiated with that individual. Should the discussions be successful, the Committee will be bringing its recommendation to the January Board meeting.

14. Update on the search for a President and Vice-Chancellor

Ms. Tessier, in her capacity as Secretary to the Advisory Search Committee for a President and Vice-Chancellor, reported that since the last Senate meeting, the Committee met once, on December 11, to review the process for the search. The draft profile has been circulated to the various constituencies, with a request for comments by today. The profile will be submitted to the January Board meeting for approval. The Committee is scheduled to meet in early January to review the long list of candidates.

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

15.1 Reports from Senate Standing Committees

Academic Planning and Priorities: Dr. Dandurand reported that the Committee had met on December 11 to review the recommendations that emanated from eight reports on strategic initiatives. An annotated version of those recommendations will be prepared.

Academic Programs: Dr. Morin indicated that there was nothing further to report.

Finance: Prof. Dyens reported that the Finance Committee had met twice since the last Senate meeting. At the first meeting, the Committee set the agenda for the year, which will include an analysis of the budget according to the University's academic priorities and its development throughout the year. At the second meeting, Mr. McAusland made a presentation on eConcordia and Mr. English presented the final results for 2006/2007. The next meeting is scheduled for January or February, at which time a presentation will be made on the determination of budgetary priorities.

Library: There was no report.

Research: Dr. Dandurand reported that at its meeting of December 6, the Committee conducted a final review of the interim framework for research chairs. The aim is to establish general guidelines for chair holders. This interim framework was discussed twice at Academic Cabinet and at the Faculty level. She explained that the intent is to live with these interim guidelines for one year in order to determine if they are working at the faculty level. Thus, they were not brought before Senate for formal approval because some adjustments will probably be required further to the trial period.

Dr. Dandurand completed her report by noting that the Committee had also discussed an array of research support programs and research ethics.

15.2 Report on general academic matters

Dr. Dandurand informed Senate the final meeting of the Advisory Committee to Review the School of Graduate Studies will be held next week. A formal report will be presented in February 2008.

16. Question period

In response to a query, Ms. Tessier indicated that the membership of the Advisory Search Committee for a President and Vice-Chancellor was included in the Minutes of the October 18 Board of Governors' meeting, which are posted on the University website. Nonetheless, she said she would send the membership to Senators for their information.

17. Other business

Dr. Lynch mentioned that the Research Committee had recently adopted a policy which will be effective for one year. He stated that the mandate of the Research Committee does not allow it to implement policies, albeit interim. He added that there had been no formal consultation. This policy governs how Concordia Research Chairs and Canada Research Chairs are administered which, in his view, warrants a discussion at the Faculty Councils and Senate. Dr. Lynch conveyed his concerns about the effect that this policy would have on

retention of faculty members and urged that its immediate implementation be rescinded. He requested that the policy be circulated at the next Senate meeting for discussion.

Dr. Dandurand restated that this is not a definite policy but rather guidelines setting out an interim framework which will be tested to ensure that the needs of the Faculties are identified before implementing a final framework. She added that there is no intention to change the philosophy of the Concordia research program, stating that research chairs are indeed a very important retention tool and will continue to be used as such. The framework does not change that aspect. With respect to consultation, Dr. Dandurand underlined that the Research Committee first examined this on October 25, further to which it was forwarded to Associate Deans of Research in all Faculties for their feedback.

Deans Graham, Wild and Sharma acknowledged that the consultation had been done across their respective Faculty research committees and that the feedback had been provided to the Senate Research Committee. Dean Graham added that the view of the Arts and Science Faculty Council could be obtained during the interim phase and Dean Wild that this document will be included on the Agenda of the January Fine Arts Faculty Council. As for Dean Esmail, he conveyed his expectation that the approval of the policy would not have bypassed Senate and opined that it contains a different philosophical approach and is possibly in violation of the CUFA collective agreement.

Dr. Dandurand reiterated that this document had been discussed twice at the Academic Cabinet and that it constitutes a framework to be tested before Senate's approval. Further to this exchange, it was agreed that Dr. Dandurand would report and clarify this matter at the next meeting of Steering Committee.

18. Speaker of Senate

Although not seeking reappointment, Dr. O'Brien informed Senators that he would step out of the room for this Agenda item. Before doing so, he thanked Senate for the opportunity and collaboration.

18.1 Election of the Speaker of Senate as of January 1, 2008

Mr. Di Grappa chaired from hereon after. He said that the call for nominations was done in accordance with the Enabling Legislation and contains Steering Committee's nominee, Dr. Donald Boisvert, specifying that no other nomination was received.

R-2007-11-12 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Di Grappa, Shaver), it was unanimously resolved that Dr. Donald Boisvert be appointed Speaker of Senate, for a term commencing on January 1, 2008 and ending on August 31, 2008.

18.2 Motion of appreciation of Dr. John O'Brien

R-2007-11-13 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Di Grappa, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that that Senate express its profound respect for Dr. John W. O'Brien and convey its gratitude for his tireless commitment to Senate and his skilled chairmanship thereof from June 1, 1996 to December 31, 2007.

19. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate will be held on Friday, January 18, 2008, 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 4:30 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate