

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, May 2, 2008,
immediately following the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Mr. W. Chan; Dr. L. Dandurand; Mr. B. Derisi; Mr. K. Diaz; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Prof. A. English; Prof. B. Gamoy; Dr. D. Graham; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. B. Hamideh; Mr. S. Jack; Prof. M. Jamal; Ms. K. Kashfi; Dean J. Locke; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. E. Mongerson; Prof. B. Nelson; Ms. A. Novoa; Ms. A. Peek; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. M. Pugh; Mr. J. Redler; Prof. J. Segovia; Dean S. Sharma; Ms. M. Sheppard; Associate Dean T. Stathopoulos; Prof. P. Stoett; Prof. C. Trueman

Non-voting members: Dr. D. Boisvert (*Speaker*); Mr. R. Côté; Mr. W. Curran; Me B. Freedman; Me P. Fréreau; Ms. E. Morey

Also attending: Dr. R. Bhat (*Acting Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science*); Mr. T. Too (*Acting Registrar*)

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. M. Bani Baker; Prof. R. Cross; Prof. C. Draimin; Prof. O. Dyens; Dean N. Esmail; Prof. N. Nixon; Ms. C. Reimer; Prof. F. Shaver; Dean C. Wild; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Mr. L. English; Ms. L. Healey; Mr. A. McAusland

1. Call to order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

In response to a query from Prof. Lynch, Dr. Dandurand specified that, as discussed at Senate Steering Committee, she had received feedback from only two of the Faculties with respect to the report on the review of the School of Graduate Studies. She has issued a reminder and will report to Senate once she has received the input from the two other Faculties.

R-2008-5-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Kashfi, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 10, 2008

Ms. Novoa asked that her question in relation to the technology fee be reflected in Item 5.2. Similarly, Mr. Derisi requested that his comment about graduate students' dissatisfaction with the way intellectual property is handled be noted under item 7.

R-2008-5-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Novoa, Jack), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 10, 2008 be approved as revised.*

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

Further to a question from Prof. Lynch with respect to item 4.1 of the Minutes, Dr. Dandurand informed Senate that the omnibus resolution ratifying all previous actions taken by the Council of the School of Graduate Studies will be presented at the Council meeting scheduled for May 5. In this vein, Dr. Dandurand thanked Dean Sharma and the Associate Deans of the three other Faculties for their efforts in sensitizing their representatives on the Council of the importance to attend.

In reference to item 8 of the Minutes, where President Di Grappa thanked her for having served as Interim Provost, Dr. Dandurand noted that she could not have fulfilled her duties without the hard work, commitment and support of Dr. Carole Brabant and Dr. Robert Roy.

In response to a query from Prof. Peluso, Mr. Di Grappa indicated that the approval of the budget will be sought at the June Board meeting, in order to allow Senate's input at the May 23 meeting.

5. Report of Senate Standing Committees

5.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2008-5-D2)

Prof. Peluso was concerned that the issue of representation of the part-time faculty members on Senate was not moving along. Dr. Graham replied that the Sub-Committee on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance has presented a report to SCAPP dealing mainly with the operational and process issues regarding the mandates and composition of Senate committees. Senate composition is on the Agenda of the next Sub-Committee meeting. Dr. Graham was optimistic that an interim progress report will ensue from this meeting.

5.2 Finance (Document US-2008-5-D3)

5.3 Library (Document US-2008-5-D4)

There were no questions on these reports.

5.4 Research (Document US-2008-5-D5)

In response to a comment by Prof. Hamalian, Dr. Dandurand noted that the research units framework is in the process of being developed. The preliminary draft document is being discussed at the Research Committee, further to which formal consultations will be initiated prior to the adoption of the definitive policy.

6. Report and recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2008-5-D6)

Dr. Morin apprised Senate the APC has created an informal sub-committee to review general academic matters and took note of Prof. Peluso's request that the sub-committee examine quality control issues of on-line courses and propose academic parameters on how those courses are being conducted.

6.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (Documents US-2008-5-D7 to D8)

R-2008-5-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Bhat, Lynch), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, set out in Documents US-2008-5-D7 and D8, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2008-5-D6.*

7. Committee appointment (Document US-2008-5-D9)

R-2008-5-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Chan), it was unanimously resolved that Senate approve the committee appointment outlined in Document US-2008-5-D9.*

8. School of Graduate Studies representation on Senate

Some comments were formulated on the relevance of adopting this resolution until such time that the composition of Senate is reviewed and/or the report on the review of the School of Graduate Studies was brought back to Senate. Mr. Di Grappa specified that this resolution was intended to fill an existing position on Senate and does not alter its composition in any way, nor does it call into question the term and mandate of the School of Graduate Studies. Dr. Graham concurred, adding that the SCAPP sub-committee will deal with the issue of Senate composition, as mentioned in item 5.1 hereinabove.

Further to a question, Dr. Dandurand explained that the position of Dean and Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies, upon the recommendation of Senate, had been approved by the Board at its meeting of February 29, at which time it also established the Advisory Search Committee. However, at the request of Dr. Woodsworth, the search for this position has been suspended until her arrival.

R-2008-5-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Graham), it was unanimously resolved:*

Whereas the University abolished the position of Dean of Graduate Studies effective May 31, 2007;

Whereas, pending the recommendations of the Advisory Committee to Review the School of Graduate Studies, Senate resolved, at its meeting of October 12, 2007, that the seat on Senate for the position of Dean of Graduate Studies be occupied by Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Ted Stathopoulos for the 2007-2008 academic year;

Whereas, upon recommendation of the aforementioned Review Committee, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies and Senate, the position of Dean and Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies was established by the Board of Governors at its meeting of February 29, 2008 and a search committee was established in relation thereto;

Whereas the search for this position has been put on hold until the arrival of President-elect Woodsworth;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the seat on Senate for the position of the Dean of Graduate Studies be occupied by Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Ted Stathopoulos until the end of the 2008-2009 academic year or until such time that a Dean and Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies will have been appointed, whichever comes first.

9. Remarks from the President

President Di Grappa apprised Senators of a meeting held on April 25, to which the Board Chairs and heads of Quebec universities were convened by the Minister of Education to discuss a number of governance principles. The second part of the Auditor General's report on the UQAM will be released shortly and will address how it happened and how to avoid a repeat situation. The report may recommend legislation regarding governance of universities.

The Minister focused the discussion on four principles of good governance, namely a clear and defined board mandate, the establishment of three critical committees, a diversified board composed of a majority of independent members, and transparency and accountability. While being in agreement that these principles form an integral part of good governance and should apply to each institution, the Board Chairs and heads also opined on the importance of the principles of autonomy and respect for each institution's diversity and traditions. Mr. Di Grappa informed Senate that a letter reiterating the foregoing will be sent to the Minister.

The President said that the Board Chairs took the opportunity to underline the dire financial situation of universities. The Minister responded that the accumulated deficits will be tackled later this summer but stated the government's belief that per capita it contributes to higher education more than any other province. Thus, it would appear that the discussion on under-funding is moot and efforts should be directed, if possible, towards aligning our priorities with those of the government. Accordingly, Drs. Graham and Dandurand, Me Freedman and Ms. Abitbol had a recent meeting with government officials to determine how Concordia can tap into the envelope identified during the last provincial budget, and work will be done on an ongoing basis to reposition Concordia's arguments and ensure that it receives its share of funding. Further to his remarks, Mr. Di Grappa responded to questions of clarification from Senators.

10. Items for information

There were no items for information.

11. Question period

Referring to an appendix to the Finance Committee's report forming part of the documentation of the April Senate meeting, Ms. Kashfi noted an increase of 71% in the budget of University Communications and asked whether a review will be conducted to decrease spending in that area. Mr. Di Grappa replied that any review will be done across the board, while specifying the need to invest in that domain and the important reasons to have a strong communications function.

In connection with the aforementioned appendix, Mr. Redler observed an increase in the Advancement sector and queried about the return. While not in a position to give the ratio of return, Mr. Di Grappa did confirm that the Advancement sector does raise more money that it spends.

Ms. Novoa commended the President and the Provost for the recent town hall meeting and asked about the next steps. Dr. Graham replied that the four town hall meetings had been particularly useful in identifying recurrent themes, such as the necessity to use clear and precise language in the formulation of the strategic initiatives, the need for better communication and transparency and the need to do a better job at labor relations. He opined that this was a refreshing and salutary process for both the Provost and the President. As for the next steps, work will be done to draft a framework to rationalize the operational issues. Dr. Woodsworth is aware of the process, and the objective of this stage is to clear away underbrush and present the results of this forum to her.

In response to a query from Prof. Peluso with respect to the status of CUPFA negotiations, Dr. Graham indicated that meetings are ongoing.

Prof. Peluso also asked that a detailed breakdown of legal costs incurred by the University in connection with dismissals, departures, etc. be provided for the May 23 meeting, further to which Me Freedman pointed out a line for legal costs is included in the budget. However, the level of detail requested is not collected in that manner, nor would it be appropriate to disclose such detail.

Prof. Lynch asked if the financial impact of the decrease in registration of international students over the last few years is being looked into. More specifically, if tuition for international students is raised, will the extra fees be attributed to specific units? Mr. Di Grappa replied that this will be looked at in the overall context of the budget.

12. Other business

Ms. Kashfi informed Senators of some new CSU initiatives.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 23, 2008, at 2 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate