

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, September 17, 2010, at 2 p.m.
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Mr. H. Abdullahi; Mr. N. Alatawneh; Mr. G. Alexandar; Ms. O. Alsaieq; Mr. G. Beasley; Prof. J. Camlot; Dean G. Carr; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Mr. E. Chevrier; Dr. L. Dandurand; Prof. M. Debbabi; Prof. D. Douglas; Dean R. Drew; Prof. A. Dutkewych; Prof. L. Dyer; Mr. P. Gillett; Prof. S. Goyal; Prof. J. Grant; Prof. F. Khendek, Prof. G. Leonard; Prof. J. Locke (*Acting Dean in the absence of Dean B. Lewis*); Mr. Z. Ling; Ms. H. Lucas; Prof. W. Lynch; Ms. R. Mehreen; Mr. C. McKinnon; Prof. S. Mudur; Prof. B. Nelson; Prof. L. Ostiguy; Prof. M. Paraschivoiu; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. G. Rail; Prof. C. Ross; Ms. T. Seminara; Mr. A. Severyns; Prof. F. Shaver; Mr. R. Sonin; Prof. R. Staseson; Mr. J. Suss; Prof. P. Thornton; Prof. J. Turnbull, Prof. H. Wasson; Dean C. Wild; Dr. J. Woodsworth

Non-voting members: Mr. P. Beauregard; Dr. D. Boisvert (*Speaker*); Ms. L. Healey, Me D. McCaughey

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. N. Burke; Mr. D. Gal; Prof. J. Garfin; Prof. J. Garrido; Dr. D. Graham; Dean S. Sharma; Prof. W. Sims; Prof. P. Stoett

Non-voting members: Mr. M. Di Grappa, Me B. Freedman; Mr. P. Kelley

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Introduction to Senate (Document US-2010-6-D1)

Dr. Boisvert noted that a document prepared by the Secretary of Senate was included with the documents, with reference to the updated version of the Senator's Handbook which includes the revised mandates of the Senate Standing Committee, the dates of the Senate meetings and those of Steering Committee. He underlined the importance for all Senators to read the document and the Handbook and contact Ms. Tessier should they have any questions.

He highlighted the following elements in the Senate procedures:

Written questions

Priority will be given to questions submitted in writing and brought to the attention of Steering Committee of Senate. The dates of those meetings are included in the Handbook. However, in the absence of written questions or should the list of written questions be exhausted prior to the 15-minute time limit for question period, the Speaker shall call for questions from the floor.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda is not intended to prevent discussion but is used to allow Senate to complete a number of routine or non-controversial matters quickly. Items that are typically included on Consent Agendas are the approval of Minutes, committee appointments, routine curriculum changes, reports submitted for information, etc., provided that the documentation regarding these items is forwarded to members in advance of the meeting. Items included on the Consent Agenda will not be discussed and will be approved by way of one omnibus motion. However, any item may be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda further to the request of any two voting members of Senate.

Closed Session

Material for the Closed Session meetings is no longer distributed at the meeting and retrieved afterwards. It will be included in the mailing so that Senators have appropriate time to read the documentation and come prepared to the meeting. It is paramount that Senators understand that the discussion and material of the Closed Session meetings are confidential and that once a matter has been discussed and disposed of, it remains confidential and Senators should not share, disclose or discuss any such matter or any material related thereto with any other individual who is not a member of Senate. However, exceptionally some matters approved in Closed Session and over which Senate has final purview may be divulged by the relevant authority during the Open Session which follows or publicly-announced shortly thereafter. However, the discussion in relation thereto is never in the public domain.

3. Approval of the Agenda

R-2010-6-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Douglas, Ostiguy), it was unanimously resolved that Senate approve the Agenda of the Open Session, and that items 4 to 6 be approved, confirmed, or received for information by consent.*

CONSENT

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 21, 2010

R-2010-6-2 *The Minutes of the Open session meeting of May 21, 2010 were approved by consent.*

5. Reports from Senate Standing Committees

- 5.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2010-6-D2)
- 5.2 Academic Programs - has not met since the last Senate meeting
- 5.3 Finance - has not met since the last Senate meeting
- 5.4 Library - has not met since the last Senate meeting
- 5.5 Research - has not met since the last Senate meeting

The report was provided for information purposes.

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2010-6-D3)

R-2010-6-3 *The committee appointments, set out in Document US-2010-6-D3, were approved by consent.*

REGULAR

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.

8. Progress report on the Strategic Framework (Document US-2010-6-D4)

Dr. Woodsworth noted that, further to the approval of the Strategic Framework by Senate in May 2009 and by the Board of Governors in June 2009, actions plans were developed, many of which have been implemented. Since the progress report had been sent in advance to Senators, her presentation will focus mainly on some of the outcomes and results.

Dr. Woodsworth spoke of the University's Mission and Vision and presented data that demonstrates how Concordia is measuring its progress toward the long-term goals of being ranked among the top five comprehensive universities in Canada and a top choice for students and faculty locally, nationally and internationally. The three key strategic directions identified in the Strategic Framework (academic work of the highest quality, outstanding student experience and student engagement, community engagement and social responsibility) and the two supporting strategies (best practices in administration and communicating our success) have been further broken down into more specific objectives, actions and then outcomes.

During the course of her presentation, the President noted the rise in enrolments at both the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as the progress in PhD completions. Although there currently are not quantitative measures for the reputation of the University, the qualitative measures of increased media attention, a rise in external awards, increased funding from both external sources and the provincial and federal governments indicate that Concordia's reputation has improved.

The University's research output and creative activity have been strengthened, which helps to recruit and retain the best students and faculty members. The University is committed to improving financial support for students and providing an outstanding student experience. Increased services in this respect not only help students but also contribute to elevating Concordia's profile and fulfilling its goal of being a first choice for students. There is also increased recognition of our success through advertising, news stories and social media. Further to the presentation, Dr. Woodsworth responded to questions.

9. Remarks from the President

Dr. Woodsworth said that Concordia was the first of 18 universities to appear before the National Assembly's Committee on Culture and Education, at which time she and other senior administrators gave a 30-minute presentation followed by 2.5-hour question period. She invited Senators to view the video which is posted on the National Assembly's website.

10. Items for information

10.1 Annual report from the Academic Hearing Panel (Document US-2010-6-D5)

Dr. Boisvert informed Senators that, as required by the Academic Code of Conduct, this report is tabled for information purposes only. He noted that the two persons who would be in a position to answer questions, Me Freedman and Provost Graham, were absent today, the former attending a court hearing and the latter presenting on behalf of the University to a hearing of the Standing Committee on Official Languages of the Senate of Canada. However, any questions will be noted by Ms. Tessier who will ensure follow-up.

The Speaker informed Senate that in response to a question asked by Prof. Lynch at Steering Committee, Ms. Tessier had confirmed with the Provost that none of the students expelled during the last academic year had been re-admitted and that, as far as he knows, no student expelled from Concordia University has ever been subsequently readmitted, though more than one has sought readmission.

11. Question period

Prof. Ross purchased some software from the Concordia Computer Store to install on his home computer. However, the documentation included with the software that faculty members and staff must initial and sign states that it should be used only for work-related matters. In light of the foregoing, he has not yet installed the software and wondered how to reconcile that condition given that this software is destined for his personal computer. In the absence of Vice-President Di Grappa, speaking privileges were granted to Mr. Roger Côté who said that measures have been put in place to address issues of operating systems with the objective of providing more efficient support. He also indicated that the observation made by Prof. Ross included a legal dimension referring to the terms and conditions of the Microsoft Agreement and therefore it was best for Legal Counsel or perhaps IITS to clarify the question. Mr. Côté indicated he would follow-up to seek clarification.

Prof. Leonard asked that Senate be updated during the year on the University Writing Test, KnowledgeOne and eConcordia.

Referring to the tuition increase for international students, Mr. Sonin asked for more details regarding the 25% of funds collected returned in form of bursaries and 20% of funds returned in form of student services. It was specified that a more detailed response could have been provided had the question been submitted in writing in advance. Speaking privileges were granted to Ms. Laura Stanbra, Director, Financial Aids and Awards, who provided some information regarding bursaries. With respect to student services, Mr. Côté said that the additional money goes towards costs associated with recruiting, welcoming and advising students, designated funding to the work/study program, etc.

Prof. Peluso asked for a comparative report by Faculty for the last three years regarding the bursary amounts awarded to graduate students, including the number of graduate students who received bursaries.

Prof. Camlot asked for greater clarity about the ways in which core indicators data would be used. While it is clear that there is a desire to use them for external benchmarking, it would be more problematic to use that data to make internal decisions about programs and research. Moreover, given that Chairs are being asked to comment on the core indicators document and to identify other indicators specific to their own disciplines, he wondered if support will be provided to them in determining how/which additional indicators can possibly be measured. He noted that he may be an expert in his field but not in determining ways in which it can be accurately measured. Thus, he would need to consult with an expert in order to choose indicators for his department that are legitimately measurable to ensure that his suggestions be included in the core indicators document and his department be well represented. He hoped that the document would be discussed at Senate before its implementation.

Prof. Rail queried how the University will be able to attain its goal of increasing graduate student enrolment, elevating its research and ensuring graduate student supervision within the context of the faculty hiring plan. Dr. Woodsworth replied that the Provost is overseeing the development of an academic plan that will address those issues.

12. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

13. Next meeting

Dr. Boisvert noted that the next meeting of Senate will be held on October 8, 2010, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate