

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, October 8, 2010,
immediately following the Closed Session meeting
in the Norman D. Hébert, LL.D. 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; Mr. N. Burke; Prof. J. Camlot; Dean G. Carr; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Mr. E. Chevrier; Mr. M. Coleby; Dr. L. Dandurand; Prof. M. Debbabi; Prof. D. Douglas; Dean R. Drew; Prof. L. Dyer; Mr. D. Gal; Prof. J. Garrido; Mr. P. Gillett; Dr. D. Graham; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean B. Lewis; Ms. H. Lucas; Prof. W. Lynch; Ms. R. Mehreen; Prof. S. Mudur; Prof. B. Nelson; Prof. M. Paraschivoiu; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. G. Rail; Prof. C. Ross; Ms. T. Seminara; Mr. A. Severyns; Dean S. Sharma; Prof. F. Shaver; Prof. W. Sims; Mr. R. Sonin; Prof. R. Staseson; Prof. P. Stoett; Mr. J. Suss; Prof. P. Thornton; Prof. J. Turnbull, Dean C. Wild; Dr. J. Woodsworth

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

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Dutkewych; Prof. J. Garfin; Prof. S. Goyal; Prof. J. Grant; Prof. F. Khendek; Mr. Z. Ling; Mr. C. McKinnon; Prof. L. Ostiguy; Prof. H. Wasson

Non-voting members: Mr. M. Di Grappa; Me D. McCaughey

1. **Call to order**

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Prof. Chaikelson, supported by Prof. Sims, asked that item 4.1 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

R-2010-7-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Garrido, Wild), it was unanimously resolved that Senate approve the Agenda of the Open Session meeting, with the removal of item 4.1 from the Consent Agenda section to the Regular Agenda, and that items that items 3 to 6 (not including item 4.1) be approved, ratified or received by consent.*

CONSENT

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 17, 2010

R-2010-7-6 *The Minutes of the Open session meeting of September 17, 2010 were approved by consent.*

4. Report of Senate Standing Committees

4.2 Finance

The report will be submitted at the next meeting.

4.3 Library

4.4 Research

Those committees have not met since the May 21 Senate meeting.

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2010-7-D4)

R-2010-7-7 *The committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2010-7-D4, were approved by consent.*

6. Report and recommendations of the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2010-7-D5)

6.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

6.1.1 Département d'Études Françaises (Document US-2010-7-D6)

6.1.2 Loyola International College (Document US-2010-7-D7)

6.1.3 Department of Religion (Document US-2010-7-D8)

6.1.4 Science College (Document US-2010-7-D9)

R-2010-7-8 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts of Science, detailed in Documents US-2010-7-D6 to D9, were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2010-7-D5.*

6.2 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

6.2.1 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2010-7-D10)

6.2.2 Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (Document US-2010-7-D11)

6.2.3 Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (Document US-2010-7-D12)

R-2010-7-9 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, detailed in Documents US-2010-7-D10 to D12, were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2010-7-D5.*

- 6.3 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
6.3.1 Department of Exercise Science (Document US-2010-7-D13)

Minor curriculum changes are provided for information purposes.

- 6.4 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
6.4.1 Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering (Document US-2010-7-D14)
6.4.2 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2010-7-D15)
6.4.3 Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (Document US-2010-7-D16)

R-2010-7-10 *The major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, detailed in Documents US-2010-7-D14 to 16, were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2010-7-D5.*

REGULAR

- 4.1 Report of the Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2010-7-D3)

Prof. Chaikelson asked how the faculty members who sat on the Strategic Framework working group had been chosen. Dr. Graham indicated that two members from A&S (Brad Nelson and Rae Staseson) and one from each of the other Faculties (Marius Paraschivoiu from ENCS, François Morelli from FA and Mick Carney from JMSB) had been chosen in consultation with the Deans, based on their academic credibility, familiarity with administration and knowledge of the University. He noted that three of these colleagues are Senators.

While taking note of the concerns expressed that the working group included neither a representative from the sciences nor one from the part-time faculty, Dr. Graham indicated that the process will be open throughout and will include many intermediate steps and opportunities for consultation.

7. Business arising from the Minutes

- 7.1 Responses to oral questions asked under Question Period

- 7.1.1 Dr. Graham said that the three questions he had been asked to respond to relate to the academic planning process. He began by apprising Senators that he had been unable to attend the last meeting since he was appearing before the official languages standing committee of the Senate of Canada on behalf of the University.

In response to Prof. Leonard's question, there is no intention to restore the University Writing Test, but recommendations will be made by the working group on teaching and learning to integrate writing into the curriculum. As for eConcordia, the University is on the verge of signing a new agreement which will deal with issues that need to be worked out to ensure better integration.

With respect to Prof. Camlot's question about indicators, Mr. Tucker and he had met with the humanities department chairs to engage in discussion and respond to questions, at which time he hoped that Prof. Camlot's questions had been addressed.

In reply to Prof. Rail's query, the faculty hiring plan clearly identifies the need to continue to increase the capacity of research and graduate studies. Those areas are in the forefront of the planning process and priority is given in adjudicating positions accordingly.

- 7.1.2 Further to Prof. Peluso's request, Dr. Dandurand distributed three sheets with graphs and numbers showing the internal funding allocated to graduate students per Faculty from 2007 to year-to-date. Dr. Carr specified that master and doctoral diplomas are not covered by this exercise and that external funding was not shown since it is compiled differently in each Faculty. Dr. Carr responded to questions of clarification, further to which Dr. Dandurand pointed out that this discussion demonstrates that a centralized system would allow for a consistent set of data.
- 7.1.3 Responding to Prof. Ross' comment about the use of software purchased from the Concordia Computer Store designated for installation on home computers for work purposes only, Me Freedman reiterated that the license agreement under the program is indeed restricted to work at home. Mr. Côté added that other alternative programs at reduced prices allowing personal use are available.
8. Report and recommendations of the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2010-7-D5)
- 8.1 Major graduate curriculum changes - Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (Document US-2010-7-D17)

In response to questions regarding the effect of the creation of a PhD in Industrial Engineering on the enrolments in the PhD in Mechanical Engineering, and more specifically concerns that the later program because less viable because of the creation of the former, it was specified that the PhD in Industrial Engineering will allow students to register in a degree that more accurately reflects the area of research or training. Additionally, this new PhD will retain those students who would have otherwise decided to leave Concordia because the PhD is offered elsewhere. Assurances were given that this new PhD will not negatively impact the PhD in Mechanical Engineering which is the largest PhD program in the University.

R-2010-7-11 *Upon motion duly made and seconded (Carr, Drew), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, detailed in Document US-2010-7-D17, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2010-7-D5.*

9. Remarks from the President

Dr. Woodsworth apprised Senators that she had joined the Greater Montreal Centraide Campaign Cabinet as chair of the public sector campaign and asked Me Freedman, chair of Concordia's internal campaign, to say a few words. The latter conveyed some of the initiatives planned between October 26 and November 26, under this year's motto "Pasta & Payroll".

The President encouraged Senators to attend at least one of the three November 1 Convocation ceremonies, noting that students and parents value the attendance of faculty at Convocation.

Dr. Woodsworth noted that she had attended the ACFAS (Association francophone pour le savoir) gala held on October 7, at which time Concordia professor Sherry Simon was awarded the André-Laurendeau prize in the humanities for her remarkable contribution to the promotion of québécois culture and the French language.

At the President's invitation, Ms. Lucas and Mr. Severyns apprised Senators of some upcoming speakers featured in the CSU's Speaker Series (Elie Wiesel on October 19, Adrienne Clarkson on January 13, and Martin Luther King III in February).

10. Question period

Mr. Abdullahi wondered why last year's exception to allow students to register in the Capstone program in the winter and summer terms was not made this year. Prof. Lynch explained that this had been offered on an experimental basis and conveyed the reasons why it had been deemed unsuccessful.

Prof. Ross asked about the status of the investigation into the difference in the length of time between classes taught during the day and those taught in the evening, the latter being 15 minutes shorter. Vice-Provost Dyens answered that an ad hoc committee has looked into this issue and recommendations are in the process of being finalized. The Provost added that a number of complexities and imponderables were discovered while delving into this matter and suggested caution not to create greater problems. He is hopeful that a solution will be presented before the next round of class scheduling.

The Speaker asked Mr. Chevrier to convey his detailed question regarding Concordia University's new advertising contract with newspaper in writing to Steering Committee's attention.

In response to a question from Prof. Dyer, Dr. Graham conveyed the reasons why multiple versions of final exams in common courses were being given. He agreed that this was a retrograde step from the more progressive practice of having one common exam and indicated that long-term solutions to the problems of overcrowding during final exams are being envisaged.

Referring to the tribunal hearing chairs who must have experience in law or arbitration, Prof. Peluso suggested that perhaps arbitrators rather than corporate lawyers would be better suited to fulfill the role. Me Freedman replied that the lawyers come from a variety of firms and associations. They are volunteer positions which are taking on in fulfillment of community service or pro bono work.

10.1 Response to written question submitted by Prof. Lynch (Document US-2010-7-D18)

In reference to the response to his question, Prof. Lynch noted that he had verified the portal which shows that the numbers of registrations are down from the numbers he had provided in his questions. He appreciated the analysis but had hoped for a more razor-sharp analysis of what had occurred, opining that the overall picture might have been overlooked since different individuals are responsible for different components.

Dr. Graham responded that there are one thousand more students on campus compared to this time last year. He added that there is no lack of oversight and that growth is not always the most desirable option. Many factors go into enrolment management, and he is satisfied that things are working well. Nonetheless, he will follow up with Mr. Côté.

11. Other business

Noting that this was Mr. Di Grappa's final Senate meeting, Dr. Graham underlined his contribution and dedication to Concordia.

R-2010-7-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Graham, Dandurand), it was unanimously resolved that Senate express its appreciation to Mr. Michael Di Grappa for his contribution and dedication to Concordia University and in particular for fulfilling his mandate in support of the University's academic mission.*

12. Next meeting

Dr. Boisvert noted that the next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2010, at 2 p.m.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate