

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Held on Monday, March 31, 2008,
immediately following the meeting of the Closed Session
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

Present

Governors: Mr. Peter Kruyt, *Chair*, Dr. Shimon Amir, Mr. John Ayles, Mr. Mousa Bani Baker, Dr. Rama Bhat, Me Gerald C. Burke, Hon. Baljit Singh Chadha, Mr. Howard Davidson, Me Rita de Santis, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Michael Di Grappa, *President*, Mr. Brian Edwards, *Vice-Chair*, Ms. Hélène Fortin, Ms. Suzanne Gouin, Ms. Anika Henry, Mr. Ed Janzen, Dr. William Knitter, Dr. Lawrence Kryzanowski, Me John Lemieux, Dr. Lucie Lequin, Dr. Catherine MacKenzie, Mr. Tony Meti, Mr. Andrew Molson, Ms. Angelica Novoa, Mr. Desmond O'Neill, Mr. Steven Rosenshein, Ms. Patricia Saputo

Non-voting Observers: Ms. Jean Freed, Mr. John Hall

Officers of the University: Ms. Kathy Assayag, Mr. Roger Côté, Dr. Louise Dandurand, Me Bram Freedman, Mr. Larry English, Dr. David Graham, Mr. John Parisella

Guests: Me Pierre Fréreau, Me Jonathan Levinson

Absent

Governors: Sister Françoise Boisvert, Mr. Charles G. Cavell, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. James Cherry, Mr. Danny Di Perna, Dr. Arvind K. Joshi, Mrs. Judith Kavanagh, Mr. David P. O'Brien, *Chancellor*, Mr. Richard Renaud, Me Jacques Tousignant, Mr. Ivan Velan, Mrs. Lillian Vineberg, Mr. Jonathan Wener, *Vice-Chair*

1. Call to Order

The Open Session was called to order at 8:11 a.m.

1.1 Chair's remarks

Mr. Kruyt was pleased to formally welcome Dr. David Graham to his first Board meeting as Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

3. Mr. Kruyt informed Governors that Dean Wild had been called away and therefore unable to make her presentation at today's meeting. However, Mr. Andrew McAusland had graciously agreed to make a presentation on technological innovation in support of academic priorities and business practices.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Gouin, Knitter), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2008-3-4 THAT the Agenda be approved as revised.

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of February 29, 2008

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Gouin, Knitter), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2008-3-5 THAT the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of the Board of Governors, held on February 29, 2008, be approved.

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Presentation on technological innovation in support of academic priorities and business practices

Mr. Kruyt invited Associate Vice-President, Information and Instructional Technology Services, Mr. Andrew McAusland, to address the Board. Mr. McAusland indicated that the goal of his power point presentation is to provide Governors with a global IT perspective of the network infrastructure and the services provided. The quality of services is measured by the number of complaints. IT's objective is to develop tools that make it seamless and invisible.

Mr. McAusland conveyed IITS' mandate with respect to the classroom technology and maintenance, telephony, network, enterprise systems and data, equipment provisions, etc. He noted that IT requirements are being defined with respect to the number of FTEs, the needs of the students, faculty and staff with respect to accessing, exchanging and storing information on a 24/7 basis.

He spoke of the various tools being developed in connection with the online software and noted that centralized storage is now available via the Portal and the online desktop, which has proven to be time-saving, scalable, secure and reliable as well as being accessible anywhere, anytime.

In reference to the wireless mesh, Mr. McAusland informed Governors that the new wireless standard provides high-speed access over a large area, stating that Concordia is the first university to deploy the mesh technology. Any member of the Concordia community with a net name and password would be able to log onto the network. Mesh wireless umbrellas have been established on both campuses and the wireless corridor between the SGW and Loyola is expected to be completed by September. As for the

internal wireless capacity, Concordia deployed Canada's first 802.11n wireless network, with new and more access points. The main areas of the Library and Hall Buildings have been completed, and all other wireless facilities will be upgraded by December. WISE (Web Integrated Services for Education), offering an array of new services, has been available to students since January at a price of \$8.99 a month.

Mr. McAusland continued his presentation by apprising the Board of the advantages of PDA messaging, for which Concordia received a lot of press, a system whereby notifications are forwarded to cellular phones of the subscribers (students, faculty and staff). This allows two-way messaging and may be used to forward important notifications, such as class cancellations, emergency communications, etc. He also spoke of the upgrades which have been brought to Moodle, a course management software system which has been created for every course site, and podcasting, as well as the new developments in telephony.

Mr. McAusland concluded that the impact of the implementation of the aforementioned tools on the University should be savings, efficiency, accessibility and ease of use. Further to the presentation, a discussion ensued during which Mr. McAusland responded to comments and queries from Governors.

5. Approval of an increase to the per credit forfaitaire fee for international students (Documents BG-2008-3-D2 and D3)

The President recalled the context in which this proposal is being put forward, namely the projected deficits for 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. This situation is being reviewed by the Board Budget Committee and the President's Executive Group. At this time, a deficit ranging between \$10 and \$12.5 million is envisaged for 2007/2008 and all avenues must be considered to lower it. As reported at the last Board meeting, the recent provincial government budget included \$187 million to be injected into post-secondary education as a result of increased federal transfer payment. However, Concordia's share will only be \$6.2 million going forward beginning in the 2008/2009 fiscal year, given the Minister of Education's proposed distribution of the funds. Moreover, Concordia's share of the additional investment of \$40 million announced during the recent provincial budget would amount to no more than \$4 million, based on the most optimistic assumption.

The message is clear that universities will be responsible and held accountable for their financial situation. Mr. Di Grappa explained that in the past the surplus charged to international students was clawed back by the government and redistributed throughout the university network. However, last July the provincial government informed universities that they would be allowed to charge international students up to 10% above the government mandated fees and retain those amounts. The Budget Committee reviewed the dossier and voted in favor of implementing the increase, but further to a number of arguments presented by the students, it was decided not to go ahead for September 2007.

Mr. Di Grappa noted that it is now opportune to approve the increase for a September 2008 implementation, which will enable the University to collect the additional revenues of approximately \$1.4 million, mainly required to partially offset the high cost of recruiting and supporting international students. He mentioned that McGill and

Université de Montréal have been charging the increased fee since last Fall and other Quebec universities are also considering going in that direction.

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which Governors raised the following issues:

- the potential negative effect of this increase on the University's reputation, enrolment as well as fundraising efforts;
- the lack of a detailed budget showing the areas that the money would be applied to;
- the fact that low to medium income students will suffer greater financial hardship;
- the excellent contribution of international students;
- this increase gives the impression that the University is targeting international students;
- the possibility of adopting a grandfather clause for those international students who are currently registered at Concordia;

Pursuant to the above discussion, Mr. Di Grappa posited that the Board will have to make crucial and difficult choices. He hopes that Governors will appreciate the magnitude of the problems, some of which compound every year. In light of today's exchange, he felt that this issue should be postponed and reviewed within the context of the overall budget presentation which will be done at the May Board meeting. The Chair of the Board conveyed his expectation that those who expressed concern for international students should equally be troubled by issues affecting the University as a whole.

6. Update of the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Engineering and Computer Science

Dr. Graham reported that, following the public presentations of the three candidates, the Advisory Search Committee met on March 27 to consider the comments received. A recommendation will be brought to the Board in due course.

6. Reports on Concordia's compliance with certain legal obligations

6.1 Report on compliance with fiscal requirements

Vice-President, Finance Larry English reported he was satisfied with the procedures followed for computing and remitting taxes withheld from employees and employers' contributions from December 1, 2007 to February 29, 2008 as well as for GST and QST claims from November 1, 2007 to January 31, 2008 and that the University had fully complied with its statutory fiscal obligations. A copy of his written report had been deposited with the Secretary of the Board of Governors.

6.2 Report on compliance with environmental legislation and health and safety regulations

Vice-President, Services Roger Côté reported that the *Quarterly environmental health and safety report on due diligence*, dated March 6, 2008, had been deposited with the Secretary of the Board of Governors. Mr. Côté gave the highlights of the report as follows:

- Four CSST claims were submitted since the last report with no serious injuries.

- A fire and public safety citation for the AS/CC/FC/RF/PY Complex is outstanding; however, work has been completed and plan will be submitted for approval by the Fire Prevention Bureau within the month.
- An inspection by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission took place on March 11, 2008. Concordia maintains a consolidated license issued by the Commission for use of radioisotopes in teaching and research; the level of use has remained stable for the past ten years.
- The institutional emergency plan has been updated and communicated.
- A rapid response communication system is installed and is being tested at various levels of the organization.

7. Report of the President

The President apologized to Board members for the disruption caused by protesters. While the University is a place for debate and peaceful protest, today's display certainly does not fit within Concordia's policies.

Mr. Di Grappa updated the Board on the status of the negotiations with the part-time faculty members, who have been without a contract for six years, noting that changes have been brought to the Human Resources Department in how collective agreements are negotiated. He added that he is hopeful that an agreement will be reached soon. He concluded by saying that the University is gearing up for negotiations with those bargaining units which have agreements ending in 2008.

8. Monthly reports

- 8.1 Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Relations - Ms. Kathy Assayag (Document BG-2008-3-D4)
- 8.2 Vice-President, Services - Mr. Roger Côté (Acting) (Document BG-2008-3-D5)
- 8.3 Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies - Dr. Louise Dandurand (Document BG-2008-3-D6)
- 8.4 Vice-President, Finance - Mr. Larry English (Document BG-2008-3-D7)
- 8.5 Vice-President, External Relations and Secretary-General - Me Bram Freedman (BG-2008-3-D8)
- 8.6 Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs - Dr. David Graham (Document BG-2008-3-D9)
- 8.7 Special Communications Advisor to the President - Mr. John Parisella (Document BG-2008-3-D10)

No additional information was provided under these headings.

9. Any other business

Mr. Rosenshein was pleased to inform Governors of activities and events organized by various student groups, such as upcoming talks by David Suzuki (April 3), Michael Ignatieff (April 4) and Jack Layton (April 10) as well as other recently-held events such as the 8th Annual Art Matters Festival and the Troitsky Bridge Building Competition.

10. Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Governors will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 8 a.m., on the SGW Campus, in Room GM 407-1.

11. Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 10 a.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors