

UNIVERSITY SENATEMINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 30, 2001ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Dr. J. W. O'Brien (Speaker); Dr. F. Lowy; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. L. English; Dr. J. Lightstone; Prof. A. Ahmad; Ms. C. Basmaji; Prof. C. Bayne; Mr. P. Blais; Dr. D. Boisvert; Prof. W. Bukowski; Prof. C. Cupples; Mr. W. Curran; Mr. B. Desgreniers; Dean N. Esmail; Ms. S. Friesinger; Prof. V. S. Hoa; Dean C. Jackson; Prof. E. Jacobs; Ms. C. Leduc; Mr. A. McAusland; Prof. D. Morin; Mr. A. Munro; Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer; Prof. S. Panet-Raymond; Ms. L. Prendergast; Prof. L. Roberge; Prof. H. Shulman; Dean M. Singer; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Ms. S. Stea; Prof. P. Thornton; Interim Dean J. Tomberlin; Prof. R. Tremblay; Prof. C. Vallejo

ABSENT: Ms. L. Accary; Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Dean C. Bédard; Mr. A. Beedassy; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Prof. A. English; Prof. M. Gourlay; Mr. R. Luppicini; Ms. M. Mullarkey; Mr. S. Nazzal; Prof. P. Rist

ALSO ATTENDING: Me Bram Freedman, Prof. J. Jans (representing Dean C. Bédard)

Documents associated with the Minutes

US-2001-10-D2	Final 2000-2001 Operating budget documentation
US-2001-10-D3	Preliminary 2001-2002 Operating budget documentation
US-2001-10-D4	Report from Academic Programs Committee
US-2001-10-D5	Report from the Council of the School of Graduate Studies
US-2001-10-D6 and D7	Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
US-2001-10-D8 and D9	Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
US-2001-10-D10	Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts
US-2001-10-D11	Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
US-2001-10-D12 to D15	Major graduate curriculum changes- John Molson School of Business
US-2001-10-D16	Minor graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science
US-2001-10-D17	Minor graduate curriculum changes- John Molson School of Business
US-2001-10-D18	Minor editorial changes to academic regulations – School of Graduate Studies

1. Call to order

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R-2001-10-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Jackson, Stathopoulos), it was unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved as submitted.*

Dr. O'Brien informed Senators that Steering Committee had decided to change the usual order of the agenda items to accommodate the budget discussion.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting held November 9, 2001

R-2001-10-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Jackson), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 9, 2001 be approved as submitted.*

Mr. Blais enquired as to the accuracy of recording a unanimous vote when abstentions are noted in the Minutes. In the Speaker's opinion, it seemed appropriately recorded. Nonetheless, it was agreed that Steering Committee could discuss the wording of abstentions at its next meeting.

4. Business arising from the Minutes

Raising a point of personal privilege, Dean Singer said that the statement made by one of the slates running in the ongoing student election, to the effect that the Faculty of Arts and Science was closing 190 programs, was totally untrue.

5. Operating Budget for 2001-2002

Chief Financial Officer Larry English recapitulated the 2000-2001 final operating results. In summary, the University had ended the year with a balanced budget.

Prof. Vallejo asked for further details regarding the deficit incurred by the John Molson School of Business. Dr. Lightstone answered that the recording of the cost of renaming the School should have been done differently instead of being completely absorbed in one year. As a result, any future costs relating to the name change will be amortized as a capital investment over ten years. The other overruns will be amortized over a shorter period of three years beginning next year. Finally, Dr. Lightstone explained that the privatization program had not incurred a deficit as such. An accounting decision had been made to charge the expenses associated with the advertisement of the name change to this budget item.

Mr. Blais was puzzled by the discrepancies between the final budget figures for 2000-2001 and the audited financial statements. Mr. English explained that those were simply differences in recording and proceeded to reconcile the budget with the financial statements.

In response to a query by Ms. Stea, Dr. Boisvert stated that the Dean of Students' budget operates on a three-year cycle, which means that the budget must be balanced at the end of the third year. Of the \$163,000 deficit, approximately \$100,000 were committed by the Concordia Council on Student Life for various projects, the other portion of the deficit being attributable to staff adjustments.

With respect to the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, Mr. English pointed out that the deficit was not a true deficit. He explained that all the expenses for the new T.A.V. program had been paid up front while the revenues collected for the program had been recorded in the tuition line. In reality, the Faculty ended the year with a small surplus.

Referring to Document US-2001-10-D3, Mr. English commented on the preliminary 2001-2002 Operating Budget and reviewed its main components. The budget for admissible expenses is broken down as follows. The transitional grant funding, comprised of amounts

based on teaching, support and space, specific measures minus government reductions, adds up to \$134,926,623. Including the tuition fees, administrative and departmental revenues and the profits from the business units, it amounts to \$183,840,271. When the non-admissible revenues before profit of the business units are taken into account, the aggregate budget of the University totals \$223,398,914. Mr. English reminded Senators that the monies reserved for specific financing, namely \$6,681,000, are not included in the budget.

Mr. English reviewed the budget model scenario used to distribute funds among the various units, departments and faculties. According to this model, the academic sector would receive \$115,683,748, the support sector, \$45,226,258 and the space sector, \$22,930,266. In closing, the Chief Financial Officer said that although preliminary figures had shown a \$0.5 million deficit, upon applying the budget model, a balanced budget is forecast for 2001-2002.

Dr. Lightstone, Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities (SCAPP), conveyed the following:

- The members of SCAPP unanimously recommend the budget to Senate.
- The transparency of the budget document compared to past years. You can now see the way every dollar of revenue is allocated, in accordance with the principles adopted by SCAPP and Senate last year. Ninety percent of the implementation of those principles has been achieved.
- Departments are listed under budgetary allocation category according to above-noted principles.
- Of the \$11,000,000 of additional funding in new budget, more than \$9,000,000 is going to front-line academic activities, namely the hiring of new faculty members, which is a critical factor in the successful realization of the academic planning process.

Mr. English, Dr. Lightstone and Dr. Lowy answered questions from Senators concerning specific budget items, and thereafter the following resolution was adopted.

R-2001-10-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lightstone, Singer), it was unanimously resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities as set out in Document US-2001-10-D3, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors that it approve the 2001-2002 Operating Budget.

Mr. English moved on to the possible upcoming changes to the funding formula. Although not confirmed nor finalized, it would appear that senior government officials are proposing changes to the current transitional funding formula. The current weighting system is comprised of 11 categories, according to disciplines and sectors and cycles. The proposed changes would compress the weightings into six categories, three of which are related to medical fields and consequently not applicable to Concordia. Although the total implication is not yet known, it is clear that the University would be gravely penalized should the government adopt this weighting system.

Dr. Lowy apprised Senate of the detailed discussions that occurred last week between Concordia's senior administrators and those of other universities as well as government officials. In light of the rumored changes, Dr. Lowy did not know if the promises made under the performance contract would be upheld. However, he affirmed that the senior administration is putting its best efforts forward so that the government understands that Concordia is not going to easily accept a large reduction in funding.

When asked for a worst-case scenario, Mr. English indicated that the implementation of the new weightings could represent a \$4,500,000 yearly loss for the University. However, Dr. Lightstone stated that after having spoken to government officials today, he doubted that it would be the case. Regardless of the changes in the formula, he assured Senators that the University's hiring of faculty will continue in accordance with the academic plan, specifying that the University will go ahead in accordance with the budget it expected to have next year.

Having participated in a meeting with Dr. Lightstone, Dean Jackson congratulated the Provost on his vigorous and effective intervention on behalf of the University regarding the funding issue. A discussion ensued during which many Senators expressed concern with regards to the proposed modification to the formula.

6. Recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee

6.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

Dean Singer responded to Prof. Panet-Raymond's query for further details regarding the resource implications and the nature of the endowments relating to the Minor and Certificate in Canadian Irish Studies.

A motion was moved by Dean Singer, seconded by Prof. Vallejo, that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science be approved. Further to Dean Tomberlin's comment regarding the limited admission to the Loyola International College, Dean Singer and the Principal of the College, Prof. Bukowski, were amenable to open admission to students from other Faculties. As a result, since Senate was agreeable to the proposed amendment, the following motion was voted on:

R-2001-10-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Singer, Bukowski), it was unanimously resolved that the major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Documents US-2001-10-D6 and D7, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2001-10-D4, with the understanding that Document US-2001-10-D7 regarding Loyola International College be amended to read "any undergraduate degree program" wherever it is specifically mentioned "Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science".*

6.2 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

R-2001-10-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Jans, Singer), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, set out in Documents US-2001-10-D8 and D9, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2001-10-D4.*

6.3 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts

R-2001-10-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Jans, Jackson), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, set out in Document US-2001-10-D10, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2001-10-D4.*

6.4 Major graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

R-2001-10-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Jans, Esmail), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Sciences,*

set out in Document US-2001-10-D11, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2001-10-D4.

6.5 Major graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business

Referring to document US-2001-10-D14, Prof. Tremblay enquired about the University's policy in relation to changing courses numbers from the 500-level to the 600-level. She felt that there should be distinctions between diploma programs and master's programs. The Provost observed that the Academic Programs Committee (APC) had specifically requested this modification. Indeed, APC had determined that certain graduate diploma courses with a 500-level number had the exact admission requirements as those for MBA courses. This change was brought to correct an inequitable situation.

R-2001-10-11 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Jans, Morin), it was unanimously resolved that the major graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, set out in Documents US-2001-10-D12 to D15, be approved as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2001-10-D4.

6.6 Minor graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

6.7 Minor graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business

6.8 Minor editorial changes to academic regulations – School of Graduate Studies

These documents are submitted for information purposes only.

7. Appointment of a Chair for the Tribunal Hearing Pool

R-2001-10-12 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Tremblay), it was unanimously resolved that the Tribunal Chair appointee, as set out in Document US-2001-10-D19, be approved.

8. Remarks from the Rector

Since Dr. Lowy had reported on some items earlier on in the meeting, and citing the lateness of the hour, he waived any further remarks.

9. Items for information

Dean Singer was pleased to announce the appointments by the Faculty of Arts and Science of Dr. Ann English, Dr. Fred Bird and Dr. Gilles Peslherbe as Concordia University Research Chairs, effective January 1, 2002. They will join the ranks of Dr. Phil Abrami, Dr. Shimon Amir, Dr. William Bukowski, Dr. Lisa Serbin and Dr. Peter Shizgal, all appointed last year.

Dean Jackson was delighted to inform Senate that seven out of the 11 Du Maurier Foundation of the Arts award recipients were Concordia students.

In reference to certain statements made by CSU representatives during the election campaign, Dean Esmail reported that the allegations of his interference in student affairs, and more particularly the CSU general assembly, were completely unfounded.

University Registrar Lynne Prendergast advised that undergraduate applications for the winter term were up 20%. She added that the web registration system for undergraduate students would be functional as of December 3.

10. Question period

Although Concordia and the Concordia Foundation are independent corporations, in light of their relationship to the University, Mr. Blais queried Vice-Rector Danis on the availability of information concerning those entities. Mr. Blais stated the difficulty in getting information in the past. Prof. Danis indicated that he would make a request at the next meeting of each corporation so that information is made available to Senators.

Prof. Danis asked Mr. Blais to give an update on the CSU elections. Mr. Blais supplied the details regarding the disqualification and subsequent reinstatement of a slate on the ballot and of the extension of the polling period. In view of the foregoing, Mr. Blais expects that the results will be contested.

Further to a concern expressed by Mr. Desgreniers, Me Freedman told Senate that under existing law, the University must disclose information to police when requested. However, the law is silent about whether or not the individual under investigation must be advised of such. Me Freedman added that the current University practice is not to advise the individual.

Referring to a remark by Ms. Accary at the October Senate meeting regarding the demeaning language in an ECA newsletter, Prof. Panet-Raymond wondered if Dean Esmail had dealt with this situation. The latter indicated that he had spoken to the ECA President and had been assured that this would not occur in the future.

Following the removal of a book described as "hate literature" by Indigo Books from every store in its chain, Prof. Bayne said that Indigo's decision constituted a form of censorship. He felt that it may be appropriate for Senate to debate this from the point of view of freedom of access to historical information and that perhaps the University should have a policy position. When contacted and asked to comment on Indigo's action and the appropriateness of the policy for Concordia, the Concordia Bookstore indicated that while it had not copies of the book in question in stock, it would not have removed them, in any event. Prof. Bayne had no problem with this response. However, he felt that it was a somewhat timid response, given the absence of a clearly articulated University policy.

11. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

12. Next meeting

The next meeting of Senate is scheduled for Friday, January 18, 2002, at 2 p.m.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m., on a motion moved by Dean Singer and seconded by Prof. Stathopoulos.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors and Senate