

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, December 8, 2006, immediately following the Closed Session
in Room EV 2.260, SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Prof. A. Al-Khalili; Prof. L. Blair; Ms. V. Braide; Mr. R. Daoud; Ms. L. Del Vecchio; Prof. O. Dyens; Mr. Y. El Hamwi; Dean N. Esmail; Dean D. Graham; Prof. A. Hamalian; Mr. B. Hamideh; Ms. A. Henry; Prof. M. Jamal; Mr. K. Juma; Prof. R. Kilgour; Prof. W. Lynch; Prof. N. Nixon; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. E. Regler; Ms. C. Reimer; Mr. S. Rosenshein; Prof. C. Ross; Mr. P. Schiefke; Prof. J. Segovia; Prof. F. Shaver; Prof. C. Trueman; Dr. T. Vo-Van; Prof. W. Zerges

Non-voting members: Mr. W. Curran; Prof. M. Danis; Mr. M. Di Grappa; Me P. Fréreau; Ms. L. Healey; Mr. A. McAusland; Dr. J. W. O'Brien (*Speaker*); Dr. R. J. Oppenheimer

Also attending: Dr. L. Dandurand (Acting President); Dr. B. Ibrahim (Acting Dean – John Molson School of Business); Dr. T. Stathopoulos (Acting Dean – School of Graduate Studies)

ABSENT

Voting members: Mr. P. Blais; Dr. C. Lajeunesse; Prof. R. Rudin; Dean E. Saccà; Ms. E. Silver; Dr. M. Singer; Prof. P. Stoett; Dean J. Tomberlin; Dean C. Wild

Non-voting members: Mr. L. English; Mr. K. Pruden

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m. Dr. O'Brien informed Senate that in the absence of Dr. Lajeunesse who was abroad, Dr. Dandurand was Acting President and, that in the absence of Dr. Singer who was on medical leave, Dean Esmail was Acting Provost.

2. Address by Rev. Ellie Hummel regarding the Student Emergency Food Fund

Dr. O'Brien introduced Reverend Ellie Hummel. The latter began by thanking Senators for allowing her the opportunity to speak about this important cause. The fund, which has been around for many years and originally started as a food fund, provides vouchers year long to students in need. Rev. Hummel referred to the financial struggle that several students experience and explained how the fund can make a huge difference, in providing them not

only food vouchers but also hope. She concluded by urging Senators to spread the word about the fund to everyone, especially front-line staff.

3. Approval of the Agenda

R-2006-10-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Daoud, Peluso), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved.*

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 10, 2006

R-2006-10-6 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Hamalian, Dyens), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 10, 2006 be approved.*

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

Dr. O'Brien invited Ms. Henry to comment on the status of the student consultation with respect to the Academic Code of Conduct. The latter apprised Senate that the consultation was at its initial stages but currently difficult to pursue due to the end of term and the exam period. The consultation will continue in January, with an expectation to be completed in time for the February Senate meeting.

The Speaker explained that Steering Committee had received a document from the Vice-President, Finance outlining the budget approval process. Steering Committee decided that this document should be forwarded to the Finance Committee with a view of reporting back to Senate. However, as Senate is well aware, the Finance Committee has not met for quite a while. As a result, Steering Committee decided to ask Mr. English to convene a meeting of the Finance Committee so that it can get organized, namely to appoint a Chair from among its members and to review the aforementioned document.

For Senate's information, Dr. O'Brien read out the names of the members of the Finance Committee, noting that the positions of faculty member from Fine Arts and staff member are vacant. He then invited Senators to comment, further to which Prof. Segovia stated his views with respect to the lack of meetings of the Finance Committee, the budget preparation process, an alternative and preferable way of presenting the budget, budget strategy, etc. Mr. El Hamwi noted that absence of a graduate student representative on the Committee, contrary to other Senate committees. There was a consensus that graduate student representation should be added on the Finance Committee. Accordingly, Ms. Tessier will write to the GSA to request a nominee and convey same to Mr. English in due course. A wish was expressed that the Committee report to Senate at its February meeting.

Dr. Lynch noted that the document entitled "*Membership and Functions of the Standing Committees of Senate*", posted on the University website, stipulates that the President and the Provost are ex-officio members of all Senate committees.

Regarding Senate composition, Dr. O'Brien informed Senators that background documentation leading up to the previous round of discussions had been forwarded to Steering Committee which will review this matter in January.

Mr. Daoud opined that Dr. Singer's response in item 12 to Prof. Rudin's question about library space was misleading as Dr. Singer had been apprised on multiple occasions by

various individuals about the library space issue. Mr. Di Grappa stated that, although he was not in attendance at the last Senate meeting, he believes that the issue raised by Prof. Rudin concerned space on the upper floors of the library building, not the library itself.

Referring to a statement on page 6 of the Minutes to the effect that the majority of the measurements emanate from the Academic Plan which was unanimously approved by Senate, Dr. Ross noted that 41 measurements were included in Mr. Tucker's presentation at the October Senate meeting, while only 19 had been included in the Academic Plan. Thus, in his view, the majority of the measurements had not been approved by Senate.

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2006-10-D3 (revised))

Dr. O'Brien pointed out that Document US-2006-10-D3 (revised) which has been distributed at the meeting.

R-2006-10-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Dandurand, Graham), it was unanimously resolved that the committee appointment, as outlined in Document US-2006-10-D3 (revised), be approved.

7. Recommendations from the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2006-10-D4)

7.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes – All Faculties (Document US-2006-10-D5)

Speaking privileges were granted to Dr. Danielle Morin, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs, who conveyed that the Academic Programs Committee had met yesterday and decided to resubmit a revised proposal at the January meeting. Senators were amenable to deferring the approval of this item.

8. Proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance Affairs (Document US-2006-10-D6)

Dr. O'Brien mentioned that, pursuant to Senate's decision at its last meeting, Steering Committee had received Prof. Ross' draft outline with respect to the above-cited Ad Hoc Committee, further to which it decided to forward same to Senate for a general discussion on the mandate. At the invitation of the Speaker, Dr. Ross reiterated the rationale behind his proposal. A discussion ensued, during which some suggestions were made that would result in a broader mandate. However, in the end there was a general consensus not to overload the mandate and the following resolution was adopted:

R-2006-10-8 Upon motion duly made and seconded (Ross, Rosenshein), it was unanimously resolved that Senate approve the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Senate in University Governance, as set out in Document US-2006-10-D6, and that the Committee report to Senate at its meeting of March 16, 2007, with an interim report at its meeting of February 2, 2007.

Following the adoption of the resolution, a second discussion ensued with respect to the manner in which the members should be appointed. Given that the composition specifies that all members should be chosen from among members of Senate, some Senators felt that the members should be elected at the meeting. However, others opined that they should

obtain the nomination from their constituencies. A vote was taken, resulting in the majority opting for the latter choice.

Accordingly, Ms. Tessier confirmed that she would send a follow-up memorandum to each constituency requesting the nominations as soon as possible so that the Committee could start its work as of January, with membership of the Committee to be ratified by Senate at its meeting of January 12. When asked who would act as Chair, Prof. Ross responded that the Committee would elect the Chair from among its members.

9. Report on the School of "General Studies"

On behalf of Dr. Singer, Dean Esmail reported that the Transition Committee for the School of General Studies held its first meeting on November 6. The objective of the Committee is to frame the School's operations in a very broad sense.

The first meeting allowed the Committee to begin to look at the various existing units that will be impacted in some way by the School in order to understand the scope of the project. While the next meeting was originally planned for this week, given the Provost's unexpected absence from campus, it is now scheduled for early January.

10. Remarks from the President

10.1 Update on the search for a Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs

Reporting on behalf of Dr. Lajeunesse, Dr. Dandurand apprised Senate that the Provost Search Committee met once since the last Senate meeting, at which time it reviewed comments and finalized the profile of the ideal candidate. The profile was approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting on November 23. Several dates have been set for upcoming meetings, the next being December 13 to finalize interview questions and to consider potential candidates.

11. Items for information

11.1 Reports from Senate Standing Committees

Dr. O'Brien explained that this item had been inserted further to a decision of Steering Committee. For today's meeting, he would call the list of Standing Committees and ask for a report, with a view of establishing a regular reporting practice:

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SCAPP): Its Chair, Dr. Singer, was absent. Dr. Ross pointed out that, like the Finance Committee, the Committee had not met during this academic year.

Academic Programs Committee (APC): Its Chair, Dr. Morin, posited that while she had nothing to report today, this Committee meets frequently and reports to Senate on a regular basis.

Research Committee: Its Chair, Dr. Vo-Van, reported that the Committee had met twice since September. At its most recent meeting, there had been an intensive discussion regarding its mandate and on-going discussions on research strategies and policies.

Library Committee: Mr. Curran, Director of Libraries, reported that the Committee is indeed active and had met recently. Four main issues were discussed, namely the on-going space shortage in the Webster Library, the results of the campus-wide LibQUAL + survey launched last March, the impact of the infusion of \$1,000,000 into the acquisition budget last Spring, and the \$500,000 increase in the acquisition budget that took effect at the beginning of this fiscal year.

Finance Committee: As previously mentioned, this Committee has not met recently.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus Committee: Dr. O'Brien specified that, by the nature of its operations, this Committee only meets in the Spring to review the nominations for the awarding of the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus and reports at the last Senate meeting, at which time the nominees are submitted for approval by Senate.

Special Graduation Awards Committee: Dr. O'Brien mentioned that the sole purpose of this Committee is to review the nominations for six special medals which are awarded at Convocation and are approved as part of the graduation list.

11.2 Update on the search for a Dean of the John Molson School of Business

Acting Provost Esmail indicated that the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of the John Molson School of Business met on November 16 and decided to extend the search. The Committee is scheduled to meet again in early 2007.

11.3 Update on the search for a Dean of the School of "General Studies"

Acting Provost Esmail further reported that the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of the School of "General Studies" met on November 16 with the executive search firm Provence that has been engaged to work with the Committee. The Committee is working with Provence on developing the profile for comment as well as a working document for any interested candidate. The Committee will be meeting again in February.

11.4 Other items

On behalf of Dean Saccà, Dr. Stathopoulos reported that the School of Graduate Studies has concluded the adjudication of NSERC scholarship applications and has forwarded 27 files to NSERC to participate in the national competition for graduate student scholarships. Likewise, another 27 student applications have been sent to the SSHRC national doctoral competition after the committee made difficult adjudication decisions. He added that there is a quota of 31 applications for the SSHRC Master's competition which will be decided by another adjudication committee to meet in the following week.

Dr. Stathopoulos further reported on a very successful seminar in university teaching for Ph.D. students. He gave details with respect to the purpose of the seminar, student participation and evaluation. He concluded that the University should capitalize on this significant success which generates very positive publicity.

Mr. Rosenshein invited Senators to attend an upcoming lecture featuring Stephen Lewis, United Nation's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, scheduled to be held on the evening of January 15, 2007, in room H 110.

Dean Esmail was proud of two ENCS achievements, more fully detailed in the latest edition of the *Concordia Journal*, regarding the awarding of the ADRIQ's (Association de la recherche industrielle du Québec) Prix Partenariat to Dr. Suong Hoa, as well as the celebration by NSERC of the partnership between the research teams of Dr. Hoa and Dr. Robert Fewes of Bell Helicopter Textron Canada in the area of composite technology for aerospace applications.

Dean Graham was pleased to announce that Prof. John Steffler, a scholar in residence teaching poetry workshops in Concordia's Creative Writing Program, has been named poet laureate. The latter will be giving public readings in December and January.

Prof. Segovia was pleased to announce that students in the Graduate Diploma in Chartered Accountancy had achieved the highest pass rate for the region of Quebec in the uniform final exams of the Order of Chartered Accountants of Québec. He added that Concordia had rates surpassing the national average for many years running.

12. Question period

In response to a question from Ms. Henry regarding a power failure which occurred during an exam written on December 6, Ms. Healey specified that it had occurred at 9:40 p.m. and the writing time had passed two hours. In such cases, the policy is not to reschedule the exam. However, instructors have been told to take this factor into consideration when grading the exams. Moreover, students have been informed of same via a message on their portal.

Further to Dean Esmail's report on the School of General Studies, Dr. Ross referred to the timeline indicated in the document originally presented to Senate and wondered if it was feasible or practicable. Dean Esmail indicated that the process is moving along and that hopefully a Dean will be appointed by the Summer 2007. While adding that the operations of the School are a more tenable task and the Provost would be in a better position to respond, he pointed out that the components of the School are functioning but in a different way.

Further to a question from Prof. Segovia, Ms. Tessier answered that Concordia currently has six Vice-Presidents.

Prof. Segovia also asked if, technically, an administrator could change a grade without the instructor's consent. Ms. Healey replied in the negative and added that there is formal process in place with different levels of approval (instructor, department Chair and Dean or Dean's delegate). It was specified that the only situation leading to a changed grade without the instructor's consent would be a change resulting from an academic re-evaluation decision made in accordance with the policy.

Pursuant to Dr. Oppenheimer's query, Mr. Di Grappa informed Senate that the groundbreaking for the new JMSB building is planned for January 2007.

Responding to questions from Mr. Juma, Mr. Di Grappa indicated that the second phase of the gym in the EV building should be completed in January 2007 and that Ms. Sheahan was working on a fee structure which would include preferential pricing for students.

Prof. Ross spoke of the problems encountered by one student with respect to the on-line course evaluation, to which Dr. Morin replied that she was aware of the case, that to her knowledge this had been the only case and that the steps had been taken to correct the problem. She added that students were very favorable to this project. There was an 80% response rate and several students asked that the form provide more space for inserting the comments.

13. Other business

Having asked permission from the Speaker concerning congratulatory motions or motions conveying good wishes, Prof. Hamalian moved the two following motions:

R-2006-10-9 Upon motion duly made and seconded (Hamalian, Henry), it was unanimously resolved to convey the good wishes of Senate to Dr. Martin Singer for a rapid recovery and return to his duties at Concordia.

R-2006-10-10 Upon motion duly made and seconded (Hamalian, Henry), it was unanimously resolved that Senate congratulate Dr. Claude Lajeunesse for being awarded the Centre Jacques Cartier medal during the 19th edition of the Centre's annual "Entretiens" conference.

14. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 12, 2007, in Room EV 2.260 on the SGW Campus.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate