



BG-2004-9

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

Held on Wednesday, December 15, 2004, immediately following the meeting  
of the Closed Session, in Room AD 307, Loyola Campus

Present

Governors: Mr. Alain Benedetti, *Chair*, Dr. Rama Bhat, Mr. Patrice Blais, Me Gerald C. Burke, Hon. Baljit Singh Chadha, Mr. Howard Davidson, Me Rita de Santis, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Brian Edwards, Mr. Brent Farrington, Ms. Suzanne Gouin, Dr. William Knitter, Mr. Peter Kruyt, *Vice-Chair*, Dr. Lawrence Kryzanowski, Dr. Frederick Lowy, *Rector and Vice-Chancellor*, Ms. Christine Lengvari, Mr. Desmond O'Neill, Mr. John Parisella, Ms. Natalie Pomerleau, Mr. Jacques St-Laurent, Dr. Patricia Thornton, Mrs. Mackie Vadicchino de Massy, Mr. Ivan Velan, Mrs. Lillian Vineberg, Mr. Tyler Wordsworth

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

Officers of the University: Prof. Marcel Danis, Mr. Michael Di Grappa, Mr. Larry English

Guests: Me Pierre Fréreau (Assistant Secretary-General and General Counsel), Dr. Henry Habib (Governor Emeritus), Mr. Garry Milton (Executive Director, President's Cabinet), Mr. Donald McNaughton (Governor Emeritus), Mrs. Miriam Roland (Governor Emeritus)

Absent

Governors: Mr. Alexander Carpini, Mr. Charles G. Cavell, *Vice-Chair*, Dr. Sally Cole, Mr. George Hanna, Mrs. Judith Kavanagh, Mr. Houman Kousha, Ms. Patricia Lavoie, Mr. Tony Meti, Mr. Eric Molson, *Chancellor*, Mr. Richard Renaud Mr. Alex G. Potter, Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally, Ms. Patricia Saputo, Mrs. Suzanne Sévigny, Dr. Hani Shennib, Mr. Jonathan Wener

Officers of the University: Dr. Martin Singer, Dr. Truong Vo-Van

1. Call to Order

The Open Session was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1.1 Chair's remarks

The Chair waived his remarks.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lengvari, Burke), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2004-9-7 *THAT the Agenda be approved.*

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous meeting (November 24, 2004)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Wordsworth, Davidson), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2004-9-8 *THAT the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous regular meeting of the Board of Governors, held on November 24, 2004, be approved.*

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

3. Student Emergency Food Fund (Document BG-2004-9-D3)

The Chair of the Board introduced Ms. Daryl Lynn Ross, Coordinator of the Concordia Multi-Faith Chaplaincy and invited her to address the Board with respect to the Student Emergency Food Fund. Ms. Ross conveyed that while the Fund assists students year long, there is a particular need this time of year.

Ms. Ross outlined that some students are living in precarious financial situations, because of a delayed loan, a sick child, or a high electricity bill, which leaves them without money for food. Thus, the Fund constitutes a safety net for the 250 to 300 students who require the services on a yearly basis, the vast majority of whom are one time users.

Mr. Farrington confirmed that this service is greatly appreciated by students and added that the CSU had contributed \$2,000 to the Fund. In closing, Ms. Ross thanked Governors for their attention and encouraged them to make a donation to this important cause while specifying that donations can be sent to the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy as indicated in the letter sent to Governors under Document BG-2004-9-D3.

4. Presentation regarding the Operating Budget

Using a power point presentation, Vice-President English reviewed the final results for 2003-2004, which indicate a small surplus of \$1,812 instead of the \$6,078,364 deficit which had been projected last spring. He outlined the major variances of the projected actual compared to the actual, which included an additional amount of \$3,853,724 received from the government four months after the academic year ended as part of the operating grant. He commented on the revenue and expenses breakdown for 2003-2004.

Mr. English continued his presentation by showing graphs regarding the evolution of the FTE from 1994-1995 to 2003-2004 as well as the historical FTE enrolment by Faculty.

He also showed a slide illustrating that Concordia is the only Quebec university with an accumulated surplus. He conveyed the impact of the transfers, special contributions and FTE accruals on the operating results. Mr. English apprised Governors of the MEQ budget orientations for 2004-2005. At the present time, the preliminary budget for 2004-2005 projects a balanced position. Mr. English completed his presentation by outlining Concordia's bond rating compared to that of the University of Toronto and UQAM.

5. CSU fee levy for Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ) Document BG-2004-9-D4)

Mr. Blais, who had voted against the fee levy, alerted the Board to a problem with the process and indicated that the question had been heavily contested. More specifically, while the question on the ballot did specify an implementation date for 2005, the publicity regarding this question indicated 2006.

Mr. Benedetti responded that the contestation had been dealt with in accordance with the internal CSU process. The contestation had been reviewed by the Chief Electoral Officer, who rejected the contestation. Moreover, an appeal of the latter's decision had been lodged before the Judicial Board, which also rejected the appeal.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Farrington, Wordsworth), it was RESOLVED with one abstention (Blais):

R-2004-9-9      *WHEREAS during a referendum held in November 2004, undergraduate students voted in favor of paying a \$2.50 per semester fee to the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ);*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ) fee of \$2.50 per semester from all undergraduate students, beginning with registration for the winter term of 2005 (2004/4), in accordance with the University's billing, withdrawal and refund policy.*

6. Progress report from the Advisory Search Committee for a President and Vice-Chancellor

Mr. Benedetti commented that, although at the outset of the process he had been skeptical about the effectiveness and efficiency of a 14-member committee, he has learned a lot from this challenging process and found that the committee reaches reasonable conclusions.

He informed the Board that the committee had identified an excellent candidate who subsequently had withdrawn for personal reasons. As a result, there will no open meeting before mid-January.

7. Progress report from the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Fine Arts

8. Progress report from the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of Arts and Science

Reporting on behalf of Dr. Singer, Dr. Lowy said that both committees have hired the firm Provence to assist them in their search. Both committees have met a few times, have placed advertisements and will reconvene in February to review a list of potential candidates. Dr. Lowy added that the three days in late March have been set aside for the

open meeting, with a view of making a recommendation to the April Board meeting for the Dean of Arts and Science and to the May Board meeting for the Dean of Fine Arts.

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

9.1 Report on compliance with fiscal requirements

Chief Financial Officer Larry English reported he was satisfied with the procedures followed for computing and remitting taxes withheld from employees and employers' contributions from September 1, 2004 to November 30, 2004 as well as for GST and QST claims from August 1, 2004 to October 31, 2004 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.

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

Vice-President, Services Michael Di Grappa reported that the *Quarterly environmental health and safety report on due diligence*, dated December 2004, had been deposited with the Secretary of the Board of Governors.

He conveyed the highlights of the report, namely that all environmental health and safety policies have been updated and will soon be published. Furthermore, a CSST intervention relating to air quality in the GM building will soon be closed with the presentation to the CSST inspectorate of a detailed action plan to address their concerns. The annual building evacuation exercises went well with the exception of the Hall building. However, the issues have been identified and are currently being addressed. Mr. Di Grappa completed his report by apprising the Board of modifications to the criminal code which affect the management of workplace safety as the regulatory changes impose new forms of liabilities on organizations and individuals directing work.

10. Report of the President

Dr. Lowy indicated that the President's Report for 2003-2004 had been distributed at the meeting. With respect to the Fall convocation, he apprised the Board that he had received positive comments and read excerpts of a letter of praise from Toronto-based parents of a graduate. Dr. Lowy also expressed his contentment and appreciation in connection with the Centraide campaign, specifying that the University had exceeded its objective.

11. Reports of the Vice-President

11.1 Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs

Dr. Singer had conveyed his regrets.

11.2 Vice-President, Services

Mr. Di Grappa was proud to inform the Board that Concordia Stinger defensive end Troy Cunningham had won the J.P. Metras Trophy and middle linebacker Mickey Donovan had won the President's Trophy at the recent Canadian Interuniversity Sport's gala dinner.

He also reported that the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex had been awarded the first place regional Technology Award for the category of new institutional building by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineering (ASHRAE). The University has also been notified by ASHRAE that the Complex has won the first place in all North America as well and that a ceremony will be held in Orlando in February.

11.3 Vice-President, Institutional Relations and Secretary-General

Prof. Danis waived his report.

11.4 Vice-President, Finance (Document BG-2004-9-D5)

Mr. English waived his report.

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

13. Any other business

There was no other business to bring before the Open Session.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2005, at 8 a.m., in Room GM 407-1 on the SGW.

15. Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of the Board of Governors