

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, September 14, 2012,
Immediately following the Closed Session meeting,
in Amphitheatre MB 2.270, located on the 2nd floor
of the John Molson School of Business Building
on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Dr. Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Prof. A. Akgunduz; Mr. G. Beasley; Mr. C. Brenchley; Mr. N. Burke; Prof. P. Caignon; Prof. L. Caminati; Prof. S. Carliner; Dr. G. Carr; Prof. J. Chaikelson; Prof. S. Chlopan; Ms. A. Dahl; Prof. I. Dostaler; Prof. D. Douglas; Dean R. Drew; Prof. L. Dyer; Prof. M. Frank; Prof. J. Garrido; Ms. I. Giancotta; Prof. J. Grant; Dean S. Harvey; Prof. N. Ingram; Mr. S.-P. Lauzon; Prof. B. Layne; Prof. G. Leonard; Dean B. Lewis; Prof. J. Lewis; Prof. C. Nikolenyi; Dr. L. Ostiguy; Prof. M. Peluso; Prof. G. Rail; Prof. R. Reilly; Ms. D. Saryan; Prof. J. Segovia; Mr. T. Shahwan; Prof. Y. Shayan; Prof. W. Sims; Prof. M. R. Soleymani; Mr. R. Sonin; Prof. R. Staseson; Prof. T. Stathopoulos; Mr. C. Walcott; Prof. M. L. Wholey; Dean C. Wild; Dean P. Wood-Adams

Non-voting members: Ms. J. Beaudoin; Mr. P. Beauregard; Mr. R. Côté; Me B. Freedman; Mr. P. Kelley; Ms. R. Marion; Ms. M. C. Morin; Mr. T. Too

ABSENT

Voting members: Prof. F. Khendek; Mr. R. Khoriaty; Prof. J. Turnbull

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Shepard at 2:18 p.m.

1.1 **Approval of Agenda**

R-2012-5-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Stathopoulos, Saryan), it was resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved, with the removal of item 10 from the Consent section to the Regular section.*

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 18, 2012

R-2012-5-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Rail, Garrido), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 18, 2012 be approved.*

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

Dr. Shepard apprised Senate that further to the lengthy debate which had occurred at the May Senate meeting regarding a draft motion regarding Bill 78, Steering Committee had met in June to discuss the matter but had been unable to come to a consensus. Thus, Dr. Lowy had preferred to wait, in light of circumstances that might prevail in the Fall, including a change in government. Dr. Shepard indicated that no further action was required at this time.

3. President's Remarks

Dr. Shepard said that he was pleased to be at Concordia. He had received a warm welcome to Montreal, and over the last few weeks he had met as many faculty members, students and senior administrators as possible, as well as government officials and other Quebec university presidents.

He expressed confidence in the bicameral model which works well when the groups understand their mandate. Dr. Shepard noted that we are all invested in Concordia's success and that a strong Senate is vital to the University. While disagreements will occur, he emphasized the importance of a respect of decorum and civil discourse.

He noted the latest research rankings in which Concordia had placed well, updated Senate on enrolments and conveyed student achievements (in the London Paralympic Games, Vanier Scholars, BMO art competition).

Dr. Shepard welcomed all new Senate members, including the newly appointed senior administrators. He thanked the outgoing Provost, Dr. David Graham, who has been appointed for a two-year mandate as his Senior Advisor on International Strategy. He noted that 14% of all Iranian students studying in Canada are at Concordia and that further to the closing of the Embassy, the University is reaching out to them.

With respect to the tuition rollback, the University is awaiting instructions from the government and will need to take time to figure out how to manage it.

4. Senate orientation (Document US-2012-5-D2)

Me Freedman began his presentation by outlining the legal duties of Senators, as prescribed by the Civil Code, as well as the duties encapsulated in the draft Code of Ethics which is scheduled to be approved at today's meeting.

He reviewed the overall governance structure, starting with the University's Charter, noting that the University's structure is a form of bicameralism where the power is

functionally shared between the Board of Governors, the ultimate body for general oversight and policy on property, revenues, expenditures, business and related affairs, and Senate, the foremost academic decision-making body which has a vital role in fostering and supporting the mission and goals of the University. He outlined the mandates of the Faculty and School Councils as well as the Senate Standing Committees.

With respect to meetings and procedures, Me Freedman emphasized the importance of respecting the confidentiality of matters discussed in Closed Session or Senate committees, coming prepared to meetings and reading the *Senator's Handbook*, which is posted on the Senate website and updated as required. The Handbook contains the meeting procedures (quorum requirement, voting, rules of order, question period, etc.), policies and guidelines specific to Senate, mandate of Senate and its Standing Committees, schedule of meetings, etc. Senators are encouraged to contact the Secretary of Senate for any questions they have in this regard.

Me Freedman concluded the orientation by speaking about other bodies, such as the student unions and groups, internal advisory groups and eConcordia and KnowledgeOne.

For a detailed account of the presentation, Senators should refer to Document US-2012-5-D2, which was distributed at the meeting and posted on the Senate website.

5. Reports of Senate Standing Committees
- 5.1 Academic Planning and Priorities
- 5.2 Finance Committee
- 5.3 Library Committee
- 5.4 Research Committee

There were no reports from these committees.

6. Update on Academic Plan (Document US-2012-5-D17)

Dr. Ostiguy noted that the Academic Plan contains 82 specific actions which will be rolled out in a three-phase implementation. Phase I addresses the immediate priorities, Phase II the actions requiring further planning and preparation and Phase III the actions dependent on Phase I or Phase II activities or which can be deferred.

She outlined the Phase I early priorities in connection with research, student success and administration, providing an update on the funding allocated to each action and/or the status of the work underway for each action. She updated Senate on other Phase I priorities and apprised them of upcoming initiatives. Dr. Ostiguy noted the importance of keeping the Concordia community informed about the implementation of the plan. This will be done by regular updates on the academic plan website, publication of NOW stories, the regular channels for academic information as well as reports to Senate.

Details of Dr. Ostiguy's presentation are included in Document US-2012-5-D17 which is posted on the Senate website.

7. Report and recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to Propose a Code of Ethics to Senate (Document US-2012-5-D3)

It was agreed by the majority of Senators that Senate first discuss and vote on the approval of the Code before discussing and voting on the composition of the Ethics Committee.

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee, Dr. Nikolenyi presented the proposed Code, noting that the Committee had taken into account the comments and concerns formulated at the April Senate meeting. Accordingly, substantive changes had been made to sections 1 and 5 and section 7 had been added.

While some questions arose regarding the necessity of such an elaborate enforcement mechanism, it was pointed out that this was drafted specifically in response to comments at the April meeting. It was suggested that it was onerous to stay informed of all University policies and Senators should have the obligation to stay informed of policies specific to Senate only; however, others opined that Senators have the obligation to act in the best interest of the University.

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee reminded Senate that the establishment of the Code is in keeping with a recommendation of the External Governance Review Committee but specified that it is framed in a general way and will not be used to police Senators but will constitute a safeguard to address egregious behaviour.

R-2012-5-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Nikolenyi, Harvey), it was resolved that, on recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to Propose a Code of Ethics to Senate, Senate adopt the Code of Ethics and Conduct applicable to Members of Senate and Members of Committees Established by Senate, set out in Document US-2012-5-D3.

While stating his preference for a smaller Ethics Committee, Dr. Nikolenyi noted that the Ad Hoc Committee was divided on this issue and was therefore asking Senate to choose between Proposal A (comprised of a representative from each of Senate's voting constituencies) and Proposal B (comprised of four members).

Further to concerns about the appropriateness of the President being designated as the Chair of the Ethics Committee, the mover and seconder were amenable to a friendly amendment to Document US-2012-5-D3 that the Chair of the Ethics Committee be elected by the Committee on an annual basis. A discussion ensued, during which some Senators argued the importance of having a distinction between the undergraduate and graduate students while others felt that a smaller committee would be more efficient.

R-2012-5-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Nikolenyi, Wild), it was resolved that, on recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to Propose a Code of Ethics to Senate, Senate approve the mandate of the Ethics Committee together with the composition outlined in Proposal B as amended, set out in Document US-2012-5-D3.

8. Report and recommendation of Ad Hoc Committee regarding Broadcasting and Recording of Senate Meetings (Document US-2012-5-D4)

Prof. Staseson noted that the Ad Hoc Committee had presented options to Senate at last May's meeting, further to which it had been mandated to draft guidelines based on the feedback provided.

R-2012-5-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Douglas, Brenchley), it was resolved that, on recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee regarding Recording and Broadcasting of Senate Meetings, Senate adopt the Guidelines pertaining to the Recording and Broadcasting of Senate Meetings, outlined in Document US-2012-5-D4.*

CONSENT

9. Report and recommendations of the Academic Programs Committee (Document US-2012-5-D5)

9.1 Major undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

9.1.1 Department of Biology (Document US-2012-5-D6)

9.1.2 Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics (Italian) (Document US-2012-5-D7)

9.1.3 Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics (German) (Document US-2012-5-D8)

9.1.4 Department of Education (Document US-2012-5-D9)

9.1.5 Department of English (Document US-2012-5-D10)

9.1.6 Department of History (Document US-2012-5-D11)

9.1.7 Department of Religion (Document US-2012-5-D12)

R-2012-5-9 *The major undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science outlined in Documents US-2012-5-D6 to D12 were approved by consent, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2012-5-D5.*

9.2 Minor undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science - Department of Geography, Planning and Environment (Document US-2012-5-D13)

Minor curriculum changes are submitted for information purposes only.

REGULAR

10. Committee appointments (Document US-2012-5-D14)

Dr. Shepard apprised Senate that a revised document (US-2012-5-D14 (Revised)) had been placed before Senators. Ms. Saryan pointed out that the name of Mr. Robert Sonin, GSA appointee to the Student Tribunal Pool, should be included in that document.

R-2012-5-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Saryan, Peluso), it was unanimously resolved that the committee appointments outlined in Document US-2012-5-D15 (Revised) be approved, including the addition of Mr. Robert Sonin to the Student Tribunal Pool.*

11. Items for information

11.1 Annual report of the Academic Hearing Panel (Document US-2012-5-D15)

It was noted that this report is provided for information purposes in accordance with Article 80 of the Academic Code of Conduct. It is published in the NOW and posted on the website of the Office of Student Tribunals (<http://www.concordia.ca/vpirsg/office-of-the-general-counsel/office-of-student-tribunals/>).

Further to a request for an update on the charges laid against students, Dr. Shepard responded that while Senate is provided with information on the number of charges laid under the Academic Code of Conduct and the Code of Rights and Responsibilities, it is not appropriate to disclose any information or discuss the specifics of any case.

12. Question period

12.1 Response to questions from Prof. Peluso (Document US-2012-5-D16)

Prof. Peluso noted that Document US-2012-5-D16 is a composite of responses to queries from several Senators. She thanked Mr. Kelley for providing the plethora of information and urged Senators who would have questions to make an appointment to meet with Mr. Kelley. Prof. Chaikelson added that the Finance Committee had met yesterday to review the document and suggested that Senators forward any written questions to Mr. Kelley or herself to take up with the Finance Committee.

In response to a query from Prof. Segovia regarding the MELS fine of \$2 million, Mr. Kelley indicated that the fine had been paid through a reserve account maintained by the University, specifying that teaching and research activities will not be affected. In response to Prof. Segovia's comment regarding increases in some administrative items and his wish that this be discussed at Senate, Dr. Shepard noted that the discussion could occur with Mr. Kelley or the Finance Committee.

13. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

14. Next meeting

Dr. Shepard noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 5, 2012, at 2 p.m., in Room EV 2.260.

15. Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting at 4:35 p.m., Dr. Shepard invited Senators to join him at the Welcome Cocktail which is being on the 3rd floor mezzanine.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate