

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, January 20, 2017, at 2 p.m.
in the John Varjan Amphitheatre,
(Room MB 2.210) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Mudasser Akbar; Ali Akgunduz; Amir Asif; Patrick Blair; Patrice Blais; Stéphane Brutus; Philippe Caignon; Ian Campbell; Graham Carr; Frank Crooks; Christine DeWolf; Effrosyni Diamantoudi; Jill Didur; Charles Draimin; Rebecca Duclos; Marcie Frank; Mariana Frank; Jana Ghalayini; Vince Graziano; Rudy Grow; Brigitte Jaumard; Esmaeel Kariminezhad; Lea Katsanis; Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis; Marion Miller; Alexander Milton; David Morris; Monica Mulrennan; Virginia Penhune; John Potvin; Justin Powlowski; Harald Proppe; André Roy; Daniel Salée; Francesca Scala; Robert Soroka; Ted Stathopoulos; Sofiène Tahar; Steven Tutino; Jean-Philippe Warren; Paula Wood-Adams

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beauregard; Roger Côté; Isabel Dunnigan; Bram Freedman; Emmet Henchey; Lisa Ostiguy; Daniel Therrien

ABSENT

Voting members: Guylaine Beaudry; Daniel Cross; Eliza Griffiths; Rahul Kumar; Shahbaz Masood; Lorraine Oades; Sophia Sahrane; Yousef Shayan

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette; Frederica Jacobs

1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2017-1-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 9, 2016

R-2017-1-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 9, 2016 be approved.*

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.

3. President's remarks

Prof. Shepard's remarks are summarized as follows:

- Daniel Therrien has been appointed University Registrar effective January 1, the latter having been appointed in an interim capacity last June.
- Winter enrolments are strong. American recruitment and transfer requests are up sharply.
- The President's Meet and Greet events held earlier this week on the SGW and Loyola campuses were well attended.
- The School of Graduate Studies, in collaboration with *The Gazette*, launched a Public Scholars program.
- The University and TRAC signed the new collective agreement on December 15.
- The University received funding for one new Canada Research Chair and four renewals.
- The long service luncheon was held on December 14, celebrating 165 faculty and staff members.
- The Alumni Association has launched *Concordia Alumni Connect*, a new virtual mentor program.
- The Board of Governors met yesterday for its annual retreat. This year's theme was on experiential learning.
- Steering Committee and the Board's Executive Committee held a joint meeting on November 26 to discuss campus safety, which included a simulation exercise.

4. Report of Standing Committees

4.1 Finance (Document US-2017-1-D1)

4.2 Library (Document US-2017-1-D2)

4.3 Research (Document US-2017-1-D3)

Senators had no questions in connection with this report which is provided for information.

5. Academic update (Document US-2017-1-D4)

Dr. Carr highlighted some information provided in his written update and added the following information:

- HackConcordia will be hosting its second annual 24-hour hackathon tomorrow and Sunday on the SGW Campus. Over 500 participants are expected to attend.
- Concordia's Cyber Security Research Centre, led by Mourad Debbabi, was featured in a live report on Radio Canada's *Le Téléjournal* 6 p.m. broadcast. This is the first time that the University is featured in a live report.
- First Voices week, an Indigenous-led event that celebrates First peoples and communities at Concordia and within the larger community, will be held at the University from January 30 to February 3.
- The appointment of two new Vice-Provosts took effect on January 1: Nadia Bhuiyan (Partnerships and Experiential Learning) and Anne Whitelaw (Planning and Positioning).

CONSENT

6. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2017-1-D5)

6.1 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science – Department of Religion (Document US-2017-1-D6)

R-2017-1-3 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Document US-2017-1-D6, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-1-D5.*

6.2 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

6.2.1 Department of Political Science (Document US-2017-1-D7)

6.2.2 Department of Religion (Document US-2017-1-D8)

R-2017-1-4 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-1-D7 and D8, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-1-D5.*

6.3 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

6.3.1 Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering (Document US-2017-1-D9)

6.3.2 Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

R-2017-1-5 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-1-D9 and D10, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-1-D5.*

6.4 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts – Department of Creative Arts Therapies (Document US-2017-1-D11)

R-2017-1-6 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, outlined in Document US-2017-1-D11, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-1-D5.*

6.5 Graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business– Department of Accountancy (Document US-2017-1-D12)

R-2017-1-7 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Document US-2017-1-D12, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-1-D5.*

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2017-1-D13)

R-2017-1-8 *The committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2017-1-D13, were approved.*

REGULAR

8. Name change of Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering to Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering (Document US-2017-1-D14)

Dean Asif outlined the rationale for this name change.

R-2017-1-9 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the name change of Department of the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering to Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, effective May 1, 2017.*

9. Question period

Me Blais expressed a concern in connection with the cancellation of an undergraduate class taught by a part-time faculty member two weeks into the semester. He added that 12 students were enrolled in this class, which is within the margin for the minimum enrolment for undergraduate courses between 10 and 12 students, as indicated by former Provost Bacon when the question was posed to him at the February 2014 Senate meeting. The latter had also noted that this margin could vary to take into account such factors as the level of the course, whether the course is compulsory or elective and program integrity issues.

Me Blais said that the department in which the course was cancelled required a minimum enrolment of at least 25 students per class. He asked whether there are any formal guidelines with respect to the cancellation of classes and if the policy has changed since February 2014.

Dr. Carr responded that decisions to cancel courses are not taken lightly, since they impact students, instructors and units. There are a number of factors which could trigger class cancellations, as stated by the former Provost in 2014. He acknowledged that the timing of class cancellations is never good, adding that departments make the best efforts to accommodate students.

Prof. Shepard apprised Senate that to the best of his knowledge, there are no written guidelines, conveying that as a general principle cancelling classes once they have already started is not optimal. This topic could come back to Senate for a general discussion at a later date.

In response to a query with respect to the upcoming change of the Employee Assistance Program provider, Mr. Côté noted that the new provider, Homewood Health, was selected following a tendering process. He assured Senators that transition services will be ensured and this new provider will offer services comparable to those offered by Morneau Shepell.

In response to a concern about the class size of graduate students in ENCS programs, Dean Asif noted that the situation should improve in coming years since the Faculty is hiring new faculty members.

9.1 Responses to written questions submitted by Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis (Document US-2017-1-D15)

No questions were posed in connection with this document.

10. Other business

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

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate