

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Friday, January 19, 2007, 10:00 a.m., room N-186

Present: T. Bell, S. Brunet, G. Bulgarea, S. Choksi, D. Gallagher, R. Hartling, R. Herrera, S. Hervouet-Zeiber, P. Labrinos, W. Liou, J. Masterson, P. McCoy, J. McMahon, A. Mundiynamkal, G. Quinn, C. Rossignoli, I. Stavrianos, N. Wargny

Regrets: J. Masterson, P. McCoy, M-H. Sabbagh

Non-members: G. Archer, B. Chandler, H. Erdogan, G. Héroux, A. Perout, D. Tessier

I. Stavrianos started the meeting by wishing the members a Happy New Year. He then introduced P. Labrinos who is replacing J. Trudeau as the V.C.S.P.A. representative on Council. He also announced that R. Hartling is on a leave of absence and will shortly be replaced on Council and that O. Ravi resigned as one of the V.C.S.A. representatives. W. Liou is replacing her for this meeting and a permanent replacement will be made shortly.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Approved by consensus with the addition of 4. e) Course Outline Policy (G. Bulgarea)

2. Approval of the Minutes of December 1, 2006

The minutes of December 1, 2006 were approved by consensus.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) IB Commerce Program

J. McMahon reported that the College was following through with Council's recommendation to suspend new admissions to the IB Commerce Program for Fall 2007. The College is working on minimizing the effects of this announcement to the community, high schools, etc.

4. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence

a) Board of Directors

J. McMahon reported on the December 12, 2006 Board meeting:

- The Director General and the Academic Dean each gave a report.

- Under New Business:
 - the Board approved the two program revisions, Environmental and Wildlife Management and Micropublishing and Hypermedia;
 - there was a presentation made on the College's application for a *centre collégial de transfert technologique*;
 - the Director General presented his proposal for a Strategic Plan Review 2007-2012;
 - the Board approved a list of graduates to be granted their DEC.

J. McMahon added that the Board held a special working session last evening on the Strategic Plan Review.

b) Joint Coordinators

S. Hervouet-Zeiber reported on the January 17th meeting:

- Under Business Arising, J. McMahon reported that the College was proceeding with Council's recommendation re the IB Commerce Program. Several concerns were raised with the Guidelines for Guest Speakers and a small ad hoc committee was struck to redraft the form and guidelines to reflect the concerns raised by the members.
- Under New Business, the proposed 2007-2008 Academic Calendar was discussed. The January 2 registration starting date raised particular concern.
- Under Members' Concerns, the following issues were discussed:
 - Cessation of Print Shop date stamping service
 - Cell phones in the classroom
 - Problems with the registration system
 - Coordinators' access to student records
- Under Reports, J. McMahon reported on the December 12 Board meeting and there were reports from the Faculty of Social Science, Commerce, Arts & Letters and on Continuing Education. I. Stavrianos also reported that P. Gagné, M. Pérez and A. Dunsky won some FAC awards.

c) Academic Space Committee

_____ G. Archer, as Chairperson of the committee, presented a motion passed at the January 11 Space Committee meeting recommending to Council:

“that

1. *Academic Advising move to A201, A203, A205, A209 (old Day Care area);*
2. *FSSCAL move to A282 (the Art Room);*
3. *A277 and A279 be made available to the Music Department in exchange for B116;*
4. *B116 should be given to Purchasing.*

These changes are subject to other domino effects that may happen during the renovations.

G. Archer then gave some background to this recommendation. He stated that plans to relocate some faculty had been discussed for the past few years and that the Director General wished to be in the main building. The plans are to have the Director General and the Academic Dean on the south side of the F entrance and as a consequence of this move, SCC would move in the current Academic Advising area and ECE in the Boardroom. He further explained that the reason to bring this recommendation to Council at this meeting was that the Secretary General wished to move Academic Advising in the old daycare in May so as to be able to proceed with the other renovations possibly this summer.

Several issues were raised by the members. In answer to a concern re the cost of such renovations, the Director General explained that such costs were covered by a special budget which was separate from the operational funds. Another major issue raised was the faculty lounge in the N building, but G. Archer confirmed that another location was being looked into. G. Archer then answered some questions regarding the domino effect of the moves and confirmed that the committee would listen to concerns raised and be as transparent and open as possible. N. Wargny strongly expressed her pleasure with the proposal to move her office to the area currently occupied by the ECE Art Room.

It was pointed out that the recommendation presented today was a follow-up to the one on the relocation of the Director General's and Academic Dean's offices, however the latter had never been submitted to Council. G. Archer will forward it to the Chairperson for the next Council meeting so that both can be considered.

d) LRPC

J. McMahon reported that the committee was working on a survey to be conducted in February among students who were not returning to Vanier in the Winter semester. This survey will be conducted to identify reasons for the high attrition rate (10-11%) between the two semesters. P.F. Lan-Chow-Wing and C. Rossignoli are working on the draft survey which will include questions in the following three categories: 1) personal; 2) institutional; and 3) environmental. The objective of the survey is to identify those areas which the College would be able to address. The committee will bring its recommendations to Council.

Some discussion took place on the situation in the other cegeps, which is similar, and on the various reasons, including positive ones, for students not returning.

e) Course Outline Policy

G. Bulgarea reported that he had been mandated by the Science Curriculum Committee to suggest the following addition to the Policy on Course Outline: "that giving students access to departmentally maintained online copies of course outlines and of course competencies would satisfy the requirement of distribution to students as specified in this document."

Although several members did express support for online course outlines for the sake of the environment, some concerns were raised: many students, particularly graduates, request old course outlines; in Cont. Ed., several students do not have access or if so, very limited access, to computers and therefore it could be a problem for these students; finally, the College regulations clearly state that course outlines have to be “distributed” to all students.

The item was tabled to the next meeting pending consultation with the Ministry and the other Anglophone colleges on this last point.

5. Main Business

a) Strategic Plan

Before addressing this topic, the Director General first answered a few questions related to his email message to faculty and staff following the article published in The Gazette about Vanier having been one of the targets considered by the shooter in Dawson’s tragic event. He confirmed that the message had been sent to all faculty and staff and that in the future the system will be programmed to specify to whom the message was sent. The College is also looking into sending such messages to students via Student Services. The Director General also stated that the College was well aware of the concern raised by such events among the community and was in the process of working on further developing procedures in such cases and other emergency cases. S. Brunet, on behalf of Council, congratulated G. Héroux for having responded so quickly and efficiently to try and reassure the community after the publication of such worrying news. T. Bell cautioned that this kind of event not lead to the oversight of other serious security issues on campus.

G. Héroux then gave a brief update on the CCTT proposal and the Romanian project and announced that he would report more fully on these two items at the next Council meeting.

Before speaking to the Strategic Plan review proposal, G. Héroux introduced A. Perout who will be involved in the consultative process and in the coordinating committee and Maurice Morin, external consultant, who is working with Z. Orszagh on setting up a web based communication tool for the process.

G. Héroux then gave a Powerpoint presentation on his document *Strategic Plan Review 2007-2012*, copies of which had been distributed to all members. He reviewed the reasons leading to the decision of reviewing the plan; the process involving both consultative and decision-making groups; the role of the Board whose mandate involves the development of such a plan and who has designated the Director General as the person responsible for managing the whole process; the proposed committee structure to ensure proper consultation; and the six topic areas outlined in the document which could be further subdivided. The proposed time line is to present the plan to the Board of Directors at its June meeting.

A. Perout then presented the proposed structure, functioning and role of the Coordinating Committee. She particularly stressed the flexibility of the proposed membership and the role of Academic Council which will have a representative on the Committee and which will be presented with any report before it is being submitted to the Board of Directors.

M. Morin used the Université de Montréal's site to explain the web site tool he was working on with Z. Orszagh for the implementation of the process. The site should be available on line by the end of the month or beginning of February.

Discussion followed. The major concern raised was the role of Academic Council as two of the sub-committees identified are sub-committees of Academic Council which therefore report to the latter and cannot report to the Coordinating Committee. Several faculty members spoke strongly against the risk of creating a parallel structure and stressed the role of Academic Council in making recommendations to the Board on pedagogical issues. I. Stavrianos distributed copies of the Academic Council by-law, By-law No. 3, as well as of excerpts of the General and Vocational Colleges Act on Council's role and of the Faculty Collective Agreement on Council's role.

Both A. Perout and G. Héroux assured Council that there was no intention of creating a parallel structure and recognized the reporting structure of Council's sub-committees. G. Héroux explained that the idea was to use the existing groups that were dealing with the issues identified and to seek their feedback. Other working groups might be added to provide feedback on specific questions. The Director General also stressed the importance of understanding the clear distinction between the consultative process which he chose to implement to get input from as many constituencies and groups in the College; and the governance structure whose mandate includes the development of a Strategic Plan which could have been achieved without such broad consultation. It was pointed out that, even in that case, Academic Council would have had to be consulted. J. McMahon spoke in favor of the option of consultation during the drafting process while respecting the role and structure of Council. He further stated that Council might want to look at G. Archer's suggestion that its approval be given to the two committees to deal with the Strategic Plan process directly with the understanding that everything would come back to Council. R. Herrera asked that it be minuted that the Coordinating Committee follows the regular procedures in consulting with Academic Council before going to the Board of Directors.

G. Héroux and A. Perout then answered a few questions. G. Héroux confirmed that the web site would not be available to the public but strictly reserved for internal use. With regards to the tight time line, he stated that it was flexible and that the process could last until September instead of June. A. Perout further confirmed that the members of the Coordinating Committee were to be nominated by the constituency they represented. Finally, in answer to a question as to what was expected from Council at this meeting. G. Héroux suggested that a representative be nominated to the Coordinating Committee and that Council pass a recommendation supporting the initiative undertaken.

R. Herrera nominated S. Hervouet-Zeiber who did not accept the nomination. D. Gallagher nominated J. McMahon who accepted the nomination only if there were no other nominations. There was no other nomination and the following motion was passed.

It was moved by D. Gallagher and seconded by R. Herrera that Academic Council nominate J. McMahon as Council's representative on the Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee.

In favour - 20
Against - 0
Abstentions - 2

It was moved by S. Hervouet-Zeiber and seconded by G. Quinn that Academic Council support the proposed consultative process in drafting a Strategic Plan 2007-2012.

Approved unanimously.

b) 2007-2008 Academic Calendar

D. Tessier spoke to this item. She particularly spoke to the concern raised at the last Joint Coordinators' meeting on the January 2nd starting date for telephone registration. She stressed the fact that there was no intention to overstress the Academic Advisors and that this date was a buffer day to be used only in case it was absolutely needed. She also pointed out that, following the concern raised at that same meeting on the intersession courses, the mark submission deadline will be moved from May 30 to June 2. This will allow the intersession courses to run on 13 days instead of 12 and allow more time to faculty to submit their marks. S. Hervouet-Zeiber thanked the Registrar on behalf of the Modern Languages and French Departments.

D. Tessier then answered a few questions from the members. She confirmed that the calendar had the number of class and evaluation days required by the MELS. She also explained that the English Exit Exam date was set by the Ministry and not by the colleges and that the end of summer courses was not on the calendar because it differed from one course to another.

P. Labrinos, on behalf of the V.C.S.P.A., reported concern from the membership with the fact that a few faculty did not respect the 12 noon deadline when submitting their marks. Both N. Wargny and D. Tessier confirmed that there had been a big push to inform faculty about the consequences of being late and that the situation had improved a lot. P. Labrinos added that the support staff was also concerned with the January 2 starting date. Once again, it was pointed out that this was only a buffer day and it was agreed to leave the January 2 date at the discretion of the Registrar.

W. Liou reported that the V.C.S.A. Vice-president's concern that the spring break be

lined up with the other cegeps because of the organization of trips. D. Tessier stated that this could be raised for future calendars.

It was moved by R. Herrera and seconded by N. Wargny that Academic Council endorse the 2007-2008 Academic Calendar with the minor modification proposed and recommend it to the Board of Directors for approval.

In favour - 9
Abstentions - 2

H. Erdogan pointed out that in the Autumn semester faculty had 4.5 days to submit their marks and to make sure that they had the right to 5 days if they really needed that extension.

c) Revision of the IPESA

J. McMahon reminded the committee that the first task of the Steering Committee had been to make the minor modifications to the IPESA to make it compatible with the new Standing and Advancement Policy.

The committee reviewed and agreed to each of the proposed changes.

It was moved by N. Wargny and seconded by D. Gallagher that Academic Council accept the proposed revision of the IPESA and recommend it to the Board of Directors for approval.

Approved unanimously.

J. McMahon thanked B. Chandler for her initial work on this issue and the Steering Committee. Special thanks were given to L. Robinson for having produced the document.

6. Varia
None.

7. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wanda Kalina