

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

DRAFT

Friday, November 30, 2007, 1:00 p.m., room F-216

Present: M. Abiri, E. Awad, V. Broege, I. Der Aprahamian, H. Erdogan, D. Gallagher, C. Hall, R. Herrera, S. Hervouet-Zeiber, P. Labrinos, P. McCoy, J. McMahon, S. Pettifer, G. Quinn, C. Rossignoli, M. Sossoyan, N. Wargny

Regrets: A. Mundiymkal

Non-members: A. Alousi, G. Archer, M. Belanger, S. Craig, C. Hanrahan, D. Hetherington, J. Macdonald, D. Zhang

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus with the following change: item 5. a) Industrial Electronics Program Revision was tabled to the January meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 2, 2007

The minutes of November 2, 2007 were approved by consensus with the following correction: on p. 7, under item 6. c) replace "...that the 5th floor be rearranged in the same way as the 4th floor..." with "...the 4th floor....as the 5th floor..."

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Director General's Mandate Review

i) Student Presentation

D. Zhang, President of the VCSA, reported on the feedback received from the student body on this issue. Approximately 600 students (about 10% of the student population) filled in the questionnaire and the item was discussed at every meeting of the student association. The major outcome of the survey was that the Director General seemed to be not well known among the student body and that there was very little connection between the student body and the administration in spite of the Director General's statement at Academic Council that Vanier was a student centered institution. Other major highlights of D. Zhang's report were:

- Information is not always readily accessible to the students. To illustrate this point, D. Zhang reported on a case whereby the students had contacted the Communications Office to have more information about an announcement and received no answer other than a letter from the Director General asking them to contact the Coordinator of Student Services for any queries as she was the liaison person between the students and the administration. The students felt they had gone to the right source and that any other constituency would have been given the information.

- Although the Director General does attend events, the students feel there is no real participation on his behalf.
- Although some improvements were made in the College, much more needs to be done particularly in terms of classrooms. The students have received feedback from other colleges that Vanier College is dropping on the scale whereas John Abbott and Dawson are going up.
- The students increasingly care about the politics of the College and feel it is important that they be kept up to date and invited to participate in the process.

D. Zhang concluded by reporting that, after much discussion, the student vote was unanimous for a three-year mandate renewal for the Director General.

D. Zhang then answered a few questions from the members. He clarified that the following areas had been particularly identified by the students as requiring the Director General's attention: cleanliness, classrooms as a priority, handicapped access to the College and increase in resources. On this last point, he referred to the cut in positions in Student Services (particularly the student advocate and lack of support for students on legal issues which is a service offered in several colleges). In answer to a question on the decrease in Vanier's popularity, D. Zhang confirmed that this referred to the physical environment, not to the academic programs or faculty. On the issue of improvement of classrooms and facilities, J. McMahon reminded him of the major renovations done for the ECE and SCC programs. D. Zhang noted that these were not so much noticed by the students unless they were in these programs.

D. Zhang was thanked and commended for the quality of his presentation.

ii) Report from the Ad Hoc Committee

Discussion of this item was in camera.

The following two motions were passed.

It was unanimously approved that Academic Council recommend that the Director General's Mandate be renewed.

It was approved by majority vote that Academic Council recommend that the Director General's Mandate be renewed for a 5-year period.

It was agreed to call a special meeting next Wednesday, December 5th at 12 noon to review and vote on the report from the Ad Hoc Committee for the Review of the Director General's Mandate.

b) Changes to the RREC

J. McMahon reported that colleges are receiving weekly updates from the MELS on this issue. A special CAP meeting, only on this item, is scheduled for January 11th. This major issue will have to be addressed next semester and our Admissions By-law revised accordingly. All pertinent information and documentation will be forwarded to Council.

c) Vanier's New Logo

J. McMahon distributed copies of a memo from B. Chandler giving an update on the website. J. Mustillo asked specifically about the logo since he had to report on this item at a meeting on Monday. J. McMahon confirmed there was no new logo yet. He also confirmed that both the Director General and the Director of Communications had been made aware of the motion passed by Council on this item at the November 2nd meeting.

4. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence

This whole section was tabled to the December 5th Special Meeting.

5. Main Business

b) Modification of the Nursing Standing & Advancement Policy

G. Archer presented the proposed modification from Nursing of their Standing & Advancement Policy and the rationale for it. The proposed change is that students who fail Nursing 180-101 with less than 55% must leave the program. George explained that this proposal was based on a study which showed that, in the last five years, no student who had failed Nursing 180-101 course had graduated from the program. There is a high failure rate in that course and allowing the students to repeat the course blocks entry to new students in a time of shortage of nurses. The proposed change was much discussed at all levels, departmental, program committee and Faculty, but was ultimately approved by all bodies. The Faculty recommended that this change be reviewed in three years to analyze its impact. It was also approved by the Academic Advisory Committee with the addition of a statement that students with less than 55% had the right to follow the regular procedures for appeal. This statement should have been added to the document distributed to Council.

It was moved by P. McCoy and seconded by M. Abiri that Academic Council approve the proposed modification to the Nursing Standing & Advancement Policy with the addition of a statement confirming that students with less than 55% had the right to follow the regular procedures for appeal.

Some discussion followed. It was pointed out that this change might put in question the validity of a 60% passing average. In general, however, it was noted that several programs had additional standing & advancement conditions and that Nursing should be

trusted for this proposed change in a time of shortage of nurses. The suggestion of reviewing the change and its impact in three years was recommended. It was also noted that the students who had failed were allowed to re-apply to the program. J. McMahon also reminded Council of the adjunct model project in place in Nursing to help support student success in this program.

The motion was then voted upon.

In favour: 13
Opposed: 0
Abstention: 1

c) Intersession Courses: Policy and Procedures

D. Hetherington gave a brief background to this issue. He reminded Council of the difficulties encountered in the Registrar's Office with intersession courses, particularly with the reporting of grades and of the need for clear guidelines on this issue. He particularly noted the importance of items 4 and 7 on the first page and #5 on the second page. He also stressed #5 on page 1 and #7 on page 2 which specifically address the concerns raised by the French and Modern Languages Departments.

Discussion followed and several members, G. Quinn from Phys. Ed., and particularly I. Der Arahamian, from the French Department and S. Hervouet-Zeiber from Modern Languages were concerned with the scheduling issue (dates and times) dealt with in #5 on p. 1. Both D. Hetherington and J. McMahon confirmed that the Faculty Dean had the discretion to solve any issue of that nature. In answer to a question from I. Der Arahamian on #7 on p. 2, it was noted that teachers teaching classes on Saturdays should be made aware that most facilities were not available on Saturdays.

D. Hetherington further confirmed that all departments and the Joint Coordinators' Committee had been fully consulted on the document.

The motion was voted on as follows:

In favour - 11
Opposed - 2
Abstention - 1

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wanda Kalina