

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
Friday, March 7, 2008, 2:15 p.m., room F-216**

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

Regrets: E. Awad, M. Patera

Non-members: G. Archer, C. Hanrahan, D. Hetherington, J. Huang, J. Macdonald, J. Mackay, A. Perout, S. Rosenfield

S. Pettifer welcomed back the new father, C. Hall. She also announced that M. Patera will be the second student representative on Academic Council and that J. Huang will be attending the meetings to help him prepare for next year as he will probably be the next Student Affairs' Coordinator.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**2. Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2008**

Discussion followed on the timing of the distribution of the draft minutes and other documents for Academic Council meetings. The point was made that the deadlines to send documents should respect the By-law on Academic Council. J. McMahon noted the tremendous number of documents which had to be transmitted via his office over the past months and which were often received late. S. Pettifer stated that this situation needed to be corrected in the future.

The minutes of February 15, 2008 were approved by consensus.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

a) Malawi Study Trip

J. Macdonald gave a brief report on the student trip to Malawi explaining that she had already given a full report at the Board of Directors' and Joint Coordinators' meetings. She also encouraged the members to read the two excellent articles which appeared in the last issue of the VCTA Newsletter, one by M. Hicks, the Nursing teacher who took part in the trip and the other by T. Pontes, a Nursing student on the trip. She also announced that there will be a photo display in The Learning Centre on March 26<sup>th</sup> at universal break.

J. Macdonald spoke of the success of the trip and of its multiple benefits: for the students first, those on the trip, but also the others because of the many presentations made in the

College and to be made in high schools in the fall; and for the College, as there was a lot of good publicity in *Ameq en ligne* and on TV. N. Wargny commented on the success of the presentations to the students and the great rapport established right away between the latter and the presenters. J. Macdonald stressed the importance of public engagement for students. She is planning to submit another proposal in the fall for a student public engagement project.

J. Macdonald then spoke of her role on the trip which was to evaluate the country in terms of opportunities for future training projects. The country is safe, welcoming, open to do business with Canada and by and large, an English speaking country. D. Miller is working on a project to organize a self-financed work study trip to Malawi this summer for faculty and staff (approximately 10 people) to increase people's commitment in international education. M. Hicks, in response to an invitation from the ACCC to Vanier, has gone back to Africa to be one of 3 to 4 Canadians to participate in a health care conference. She will be available upon her return to report back to Council if Council so wishes.

J. Macdonald then stated that she would welcome any feedback from Council as to the College's involvement in future projects in international education. She stressed that funding for such projects came from outside agencies such as CIDA and not from the College's funds.

The Vice-chairperson, on behalf of Council, thanked J. Macdonald for her presentation.

b) Feedback on Report from AC Sub-committee on Teaching and Learning Practices and Academic Success

Council reviewed the reports which were sent by the following departments giving their feedback to the first report of the Teaching and Learning Practices and Academic Success Committee: Modern Languages, Psychology, Social and Cultural Sciences, English and Chemistry. It was agreed to send them as is to the Chairperson of the Committee with the following additional comments:

- In response to the concern raised in the Modern Languages report with the Transition College Preparatory course as a credited complementary course, state that Council accept the concept of such a course but that the modalities are still to be looked into. Several members expressed strong support for this course, however, making it a required complementary course would reduce the number of alternative complementary courses to one as well as go against the definition of a complementary. The Psychology Department in their report also expressed concern with the proposal.
- Emphasize the English Department's statement regarding increasing help to students in financial difficulty.

- Make sure that resources for students include **all** support services to students.

The final report of the Teaching and Learning Practices and Academic Success will be submitted to Council for the next meeting, March 28th.

c) Final Reports from AC Sub-committees on the Strategic Plan

*LRPC*

J. McMahon briefly went over the two documents distributed. The February 29, 2008 Brief Notes is a summary of the committee's discussion on the feedback received to the LRPC first report. The Final Report has been revised according to the feedback received and was passed by the committee members although not formally approved at a meeting. The major change is in Recommendation 2 where the preamble has been modified and the definition of Access and Excellence included as requested by the Chemistry Department.

It was agreed to forward the LRPC Final Report to the Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee with minor modifications.

Following a request from V. Broege, the Vice-chair agreed to forward to the committee and to the Chair of the committee the Humanities Department's Statement on the LRPC Final Recommendations re the Strategic Plan but noted that the deadline for feedback was February 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Space Committee*

G. Archer reported that, because of the time line, the Final Report submitted at this meeting was not formally approved at a meeting but had been passed by the committee members by email for feedback/approval. G. Archer then highlighted the changes made in the document.

It was agreed to forward the Space Committee Final Report to the Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee with minor modifications.

*Admissions, Recruitment and Enrollment*

As for the following two committees, D. Hetherington reported that the committee had not met but had been sent the final report for feedback/approval. The major change to the report is the deletion of #1.

It was agreed to forward the Admissions, Recruitment and Enrollment Committee's Final Report as submitted to the Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee.

In answer to a request from A. Perout, the Chairs of the three committees agreed to send

her their final reports this evening to allow her to prepare for the Ped Day workshop on the Strategic Plan.

d) IB Evaluation Proposal

D. Hetherington reported that the proposal had been revised based on the suggestions made by Council at its last meeting. The revised document was passed by the IB Evaluation Committee and the Academic Advisory Committee. D. Hetherington thanked Council for its feedback which had led to a much tighter report. He then invited C. Hanrahan who rewrote the document to speak to this item. C. Hanrahan briefly went over the major changes made.

A question arose as to whether the composition of the committee had been discussed. D. Hetherington confirmed that the composition was in conformity with the policy. A suggestion to include the Science coordinator was discussed at several levels but it was felt that this was not in line with the policy.

It was moved by C. Rossignoli and seconded by V. Broege that Academic Council accept the revised International Baccalaureate Program Evaluation Proposal.

Approved unanimously.

S. Pettifer thanked C. Hanrahan and D. Hetherington for their work.

e) Update on Bridging Programs Evaluation

S. Pettifer announced that this item was tabled.

M. Belanger, Coordinator of Explorations, questioned the delay of the whole process. He noted that the evaluation had started in the Fall of 2005 and that the report was completed last Fall. Several recommendations to improve the programs are included in the report and he would like to move forward on this dossier.

J. McMahon reported that the final version of the report was available early this semester. Some discussion had taken place at the Academic Advisory Committee. It had been decided - in light of the changes to the RREC, the revision of the By-law on Admissions and the new Strategic Plan - to delay any substantial changes (in terms of the philosophy of the programs) to A'09 and to implement only minor scheduling changes in A'08. A document on the latter will be tabled at Council's next meeting. The objective is to work closely with the Coordinator and Academic Council on this dossier.

There was some concern expressed as to why Council had not yet received the document and whether it would be getting it in its entirety. J. McMahon informed Council that the full document was available on the College website and will be submitted as such to Council.

f) Costs of Transcripts and Agendas

J. McMahon reported that unofficial transcripts were free-of-charge to students via Omnivox and available at any time. Only students who want an official copy of their transcript or who wish to send an official transcript to an external agency, employer or university are charged \$5 a copy to cover the cost of forms, paper, envelopes, mailing and processing. Students who apply to a Quebec university don't need an official transcript as the university can access their dossier via the MELS database. The \$5 cost has remained unchanged since the mid 90's and is in line with the fee charged by most cegeps.

Discussion followed. J. McMahon will look into the number of requests received annually, the cost to the College and the feasibility to provide transcripts free-of-charge to current Vanier students.

**4. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence**

a) Joint Coordinators

S. Hervouet-Zeiber reported on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Joint Coordinators' meeting. The report is appended to these minutes.

b) Others

None.

**5. Main Business**

a) IPESA Implementation Evaluation Proposal

C. Hanrahan spoke to this item. In 2006, the *Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial* requested that all colleges evaluate the implementation of their IPESA. As Coordinator of the new Office of Institutional Development and Effectiveness (OIDE), C. Hanrahan has taken up the management of this project. However, much of the groundwork has already been done by the Steering Committee composed of B. Aboud, W. Brown, M. DeNora, P. McCoy, J. McMahon, L. Robinson, D. Tessier, N. Wargny and herself. The proposal is submitted today to Council for information purposes. It is a tool to help her and the committee in their work.

C. Hanrahan briefly highlighted the evaluation criteria, explaining that these had been set by the CEEC. She then reported that the committee was currently in the midst of constructing the questionnaires for the student survey and the teacher survey. The student questionnaire was tested this week by a pilot group of students and the feedback received was very good. The surveys will be online. It was pointed out that these surveys represent a lot of work for teachers and are really part of an institutional evaluation for which teachers in other federations receive release time. In answer to a question on the *rendement scolaire*, C. Hanrahan confirmed that the committee will be selecting a random sample as will be done for course outlines.

It was moved by N. Wargny and seconded by P. Labrinos that Academic Council endorse the IPESA Implementation Evaluation Proposal as submitted.

Approved unanimously.

The Vice-chair thanked C. Hanrahan for her presentation.

b) Scholars in Residence Program Policy

D. Hetherington spoke to this item. He reminded Council that this idea had been brought to Council back in September and went over the rationale for the College to have such a policy which is in the preamble of the proposed policy.

Discussion followed. The highlights of the discussion were as follows:

- Several members expressed concern that the policy covered only funded research. The value for research and the publicity for Vanier of a lot of non funded research was noted. S. Rosenfield mentioned in particular the excellent research work produced by N. Caplan who would not be covered by the proposed policy. It was pointed out that if the policy would be open to non funded research as well, the number of candidates might be high and the choice of accepting or refusing cases very difficult possibly leading to hurt feelings. It was also suggested that the policy be expanded to include people who, upon their retirement, might want to use their experience and expertise to work on a research project. A further suggestion was to recognize published work, even if non funded, as a criterion.
- Another concern raised was the lack of provision of an office space. G. Quinn gave D. Miller as an example of this case. C. Hall added that the College should look into 'trailing off' services (email, phone extension, etc.) for staff and teachers who retire to facilitate training of the new people hired. J. McMahon stressed the cost of maintaining such services. He also confirmed that Succession will be a part of the new Strategic Plan.
- A suggestion was made to limit the number of researchers in this policy to address the issues raised.

In light of the major concerns raised, it was agreed that the policy should be revised based on the feedback received at this meeting. S. Rosenfield confirmed that there was no urgency to approve the policy at this meeting.

It was moved by G. Quinn and seconded by M. Abiri that Academic Council ask D. Hetherington to bring the proposed policy back to the committee to be reworded so as to include the concerns raised and to come back to Council with a revised document at its next meeting.

Approved unanimously.

**6. Varia**

N. Wargny announced the untimely passing away of Bonnie Russell, Academic Advisor at Vanier for over 30 years. She stressed what a wonderful and supremely competent advisor Bonnie was - an expert in particular on R-scores. She also stated that Bonnie was a very sensible and calm person with a great sense of humor. She noted that Bonnie's passing away was a terrible loss for all and extended her sympathy on behalf of Council to Bonnie's family and the Vanier community.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wanda Kalina

**Report**  
**Joint Coordinators' Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 27, 2008**

In Business Arising from the Minutes, John McMahon reported on the college's attempt to keep the cafeteria in the N-Building clean and free of gambling. The campaign will be ongoing and members of the staff are urged to join in the effort.

John McMahon and Nick Deligiannis gave an update on the work of QEMSAP. Nick Deligiannis expressed his disappointment with the work of the committee and specifically with the recommendations of one committee member.

John McMahon gave an update on the changes to the RREC, among which are the *DEC sans Mention*. Debora Resnick reports that this type of DEC existed in the past and, because so few students availed themselves of it, it never created any real problems. In the changes to the RREC, the attribution of the *Mise à niveau* courses still remains confusing. Who will give them and where these courses will be given is still unclear.

The Director General, Gilbert Héroux, gave a report. He thanked the assembly and the college for having given him a new mandate. He addressed the challenges facing the college in the next few years, among which is an increase in student numbers in the next couple of years. The Director General made it clear that, if we are to accommodate these students, creative solutions will have to be found. He specifically rejected any substantial renovations or construction. He expects that the college will be able to meet the challenges and hopes to be able to come back to Joint Coordinators' more frequently to report and consult. He will, in fact, be sending out regular newsletters.

Judy MacDonald reported on the extremely successful student trip to Malawi from January 1 – 21. The main objective of this trip was to increase the understanding of the AIDS epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. The student-participants in the trip will be available to make presentations. Melodie Hicks of Nursing will be a Canadian representative at a conference in Kampala this spring.

Caroline Hanrahan reported that she is conducting an evaluation of the implementation of IPESA at Vanier. There will be an online survey of students, coordinators and other faculty members with the stated aim of reporting to the Board of Directors by June.

Under Members' Concerns, there was a suggestion to lower the temperature in the college, a request to include the PES tables when allocations for 2008-2009 are announced, and a complaint about smoking outside the N-building.