

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**Friday, August 28, 2009, 1:00 p.m., room F-216**

Present: M. Abiri, M. Besner, V. Broege, M. De Nora, A. Goldberg, C. Hall, R. Herrera, D. Hetherington, K. Kelly, P. Labrinos, M. Lynch, L. Macpherson, J. McMahon, S. Pettifer, C. Rossignoli, M. Sossoyan, A. Viel

Regrets: D. Gallagher

Non-members: B. Aboud, B. Chandler, C. Hanrahan, T. Ingerman, M. Sendbuehler, N. Wargny

The Chair and Vice-chair welcomed all members to the new academic year. The Vice-chair invited the members to introduce themselves. One student as well as the two professional representatives remain to be nominated to Council. C. Hall and C. Rossignoli, last year's professional representatives on Council, are attending this meeting as representatives of the professionals.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the additions of a) *Science Pilot Project* and b) *Program Redirect Pilot Project* under Varia.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of May 22, 2009 were approved as submitted.

**3. Business Arising from Minutes**

a) Bridging Programs Evaluation

N. Wargny, on behalf of M. Belanger, reported that the installation of a resource room for the Explorations Programs in N-245 had been delayed but should be done shortly. She also informed Council that, according to the MELS requirements, the 60-hour preparatory course should be a 45-hour one. The College is still investigating this issue with the Ministry. This year's extra 15 hours are funded by the College.

b) IB Program Evaluation

S. Pettifer reported that this item had been discussed in general terms by Council last semester with the understanding that Council would look at the report step by step this semester. She noted the structure of the report, commending in particular the fact that each chapter was followed by a summary and recommendations. S. Pettifer then briefly went over the various chapters and topics of the document and invited questions from the members. She requested that the class size stats in Appendix referred to on p. 5.1 be printed for the next meeting.

The main concern raised was the decreasing enrollment in the Program and the low retention rate. D. Hetherington and B. Aboud, Coordinator of the IB Program, addressed the issue. The problem seems to be across the province in the colleges offering the IB program

with a few exceptions. The stats show that Vanier has a similar retention rate to the other colleges offering the program. The reasons for students dropping out of the Program can be found on p. 6.8 of the report.

S. Pettifer then went through the Executive Summary and Chapter 1 of the report, and asked questions from the members. The major point brought up was the opening this fall of some first semester courses to other students to offset the problem of low numbers in some courses. B. Aboud explained that this proposal was discussed and endorsed by the Program last semester and met with the approval of the Academic Dean. B. Aboud and D. Hetherington explained how this combination was possible only in some courses because of pedagogical reasons; in Anthropology for example, the teacher reported that too much of the content was IB specific. D. Hetherington reminded Council that the IB students had to be prepared also for the external evaluation which had specific requirements other than the DEC ones.

R. Herrera pointed out that the discussion on IB at Council should be twofold: the program evaluation; and the viability of the Program in light of the many concerns raised over the past few years. Both issues could be reconciled at some point.

S. Pettifer asked the members to be ready at the next meeting to begin reviewing the global recommendations for Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5. J. McMahon suggested that the new members refer back to last year's Council minutes.

#### **4. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence**

##### **a) Board of Directors**

J. McMahon reported on the June Board of Directors' meeting. The Board approved the following items:

- The 2008-2009 Teaching Excellence Award
- The Computer Science and Mathematics Program
- The Computerized Systems Technology Program Grid
- The 2009-2010 Academic Council membership
- A list of graduates to be granted their DEC
- The 2009-2010 budget
- The 2009-2010 meeting dates

Elections were held for the Board Chair, Vice-chair and Executive Committee. N. Cooke was elected as Chair of the Board and N. Piccirilli as Vice-chair.

##### **b) Joint Coordinators**

M. DeNora reported on the August 26<sup>th</sup> Joint Coordinators' meeting:

- T. Ingerman reported on the Fall 2009 admissions and registration.

- M. Prentice was elected as Chair of the Committee for the 2009-2010 academic year.
- J. McMahon reported on the measures taken in preparation for the H1N1 pandemic.
- C. Amos and F. Nunes answered questions and gave an update on the change of the email system.

c) Others

*FP/FT (coordination of vocational and technical education)* - J. McMahon reported that the project initiative with Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is proceeding. The special project position for the implementation of the project will be posted soon. The *plan d'aménagement* for the Anglophone table is in the final stages of writing and should be endorsed by the respective institutions in mid-September.

*Université de Montréal* : The projects in Science with the Université de Montréal and three colleges – Vanier, Bois-de-Boulogne and Lionel-Groulx – although approved by the Ministry, did not receive the funding requested. One project is on promoting the Science programs in difficulty and the other on implementing a DEC/Bac. program in Science. The parties have decided to rewrite the proposal based on the funding received. A meeting has been scheduled for the end of September. The new proposal will be submitted to Academic Council and the Board of Directors.

## 5. Main Business

a) Election of 2009-2010 Alternate Vice-chair

M. Besner nominated R. Herrera. There were no other nominations. R. Herrera accepted the nomination which was unanimously endorsed by Council.

b) Admissions/Registration Update

T. Ingerman reported on the A'09 admissions and registration process. The College currently has 5477 students which represents a 10.3% increase from last year at the same date. A total of 6813 applications were received, a 13.6% increase from last year. A total of 2646 students were accepted this fall and 2620 registered as of today. The admissions process went well and ran smoothly.

The registration process as well was very smooth and efficient with the Clara system up to expectations. The total number of students as of today is 6470 as compared to 6428 last year at the same date. The College is at full capacity. The number will go down slightly as it does every year and the real number will be provided after validation.

Discussion followed. The main item of discussion was the College's high enrollment. J. McMahon confirmed that the College was at full capacity and at the maximum of its *devis pédagogique*, and was not looking for growth. Based on the projections of the MELS, the College will not be able to accommodate the number of students projected for Vanier in 2011-2012 (6600 students). Both John Abbott College and Dawson are in the same situation but the situation is not the same across the *réseau* where there are places left in some French colleges. This will be a major issue as more and more students will have to be

refused thus possibly making it difficult for at risk students. This issue is the major dossier of the Long Range Planning Committee and has been included in the Strategic Plan of the College. One of the measures looked at might be to encourage students to take their regular number of courses so that they can graduate within the prescribed time.

T. Ingerman then answered a few questions from the members:

- No program has grown drastically this fall; IB and Industrial Electronics dropped in numbers.
- The students who are refused are constantly referred to Continuing Education although they do not receive a specific letter to that effect.
- The PES (*pondération/étudiant/semaine*) is the formula used by the Ministry to calculate the allocations to be given to a college.
- The Registrar's Office was able to accommodate the departmental meeting times. Only one problem remains with one department.
- Although there are still a few glitches with scheduling, the Registrar's Office is doing its best to minimize them in spite of the very tight space constraints.

c) 2009-2010 Academic Council Priorities

J. McMahon briefly reviewed the list of this year's Academic Council priorities which had been distributed to the members. He noted that the priority on *Academic Space Issues* included classroom and lab space issues linked to the high enrollment as well as the Library renovations to be done next summer.

The priority on *Preparation for Fall 2010 Admissions* addresses the need to get prepared for the first cohort of students to come from the elementary and high school system under reform which is more problem based than knowledge based. S. Pettifer mentioned an article on a MELS study on the reform which identifies some patterns among the students of the new system such as openness and creativity but also problems with lecture courses. She will send the members the link to the article.

J. McMahon updated Council on the priority re Law 44: this law on governance has been tabled at the National Assembly; it calls for a complete restructuring of the Board of Directors with only two internal members on the Board, the establishment of an internal audit committee as well as an ethics one and the withdrawal of the Academic Dean as an *ex officio* member. The *Fédération des cégeps* as well as the Director Generals of the four major Anglophone colleges - Champlain, Dawson, John Abbott and Vanier - have submitted memoirs in opposition to the adoption of this law. This issue might require the consultation of Academic Council at some point.

d) 2009-2010 Academic Council Standing Committees

The Vice-chair reviewed the list of Council's standing committees, their membership and mandate. Members were reminded to remind their associations to nominate representatives on these committees. Members who were on committees last year should indicate to their associations if interested to sit again this year. It was agreed not to consider

the *Standing Committee on Formative Assessment* as this committee hasn't been active for the past few years.

**6. Varia**

a) Science Pilot Project

C. Rossignoli reported that this project which was initiated last year with L. Gauthier and F. Andrews, continued this year. The project consists of contacting students who were refused in Science to try and redirect them to other programs with openings. C. Rossignoli will report back to Council with more details once stats on the project are available.

b) Program Redirect Pilot Project

C. Rossignoli reported that this project addressed retention and consisted of tracking down the 500 to 700 students who had transferred from one program to another with the objective of offering potential interventions to help them. This project is also done in cooperation with the Registrar's Office which will provide stats once their workload decreases a bit. C. Rossignoli will report back with more details at a future meeting of Council.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wanda Kalina