

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
(Special Meeting)**

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012, 10:00 a.m., room F-216

Present: V. Broege, C. Clough, M. DeNora, I. Der Aprahamian, M. Gauthier, R. Herrera, P. Labrinos, E. Lozowy, M. Lynch, L. Meana, M. Passucci, S. Pettifer, M. Sendbuehler

Regrets: M. Besner, A. Goldberg,

Non-Members: F. Andrews, B. Chandler, M. Cohen, O. Côté, C. Hanrahan, T. Ingerman, G. Johal, W. Kalina, J. Paquette, M. Prentice, V. Momdjian, A. Sachdev, M. Tavakoli

Shirley Pettifer asked if Council had any objection to Véronique Lalonde (Council's 2012-2013 student representative), sitting in and voting during the meeting; Council said they did not have any objection.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Isabelle Der Aprahamian moved that Academic Council approve the agenda of June 12, 2012. Marianne Lynch seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

2. Main Business

a) Computerized Systems Technology Program

Martine Gauthier opened discussion by saying that this special meeting was called upon in order to address issues that are currently taking place in the Computerized Systems Technology program as well as come up with different options and solutions for the fall and possibly make recommendations to the Board.

She went on to say that the College is in the middle of an administrative process for the CST program and it is strictly confidential.

The issue of pedagogy is a major concern. Martine reported that for the 2012-2013 Academic year, there are four fewer teachers, which leaves a total of three teachers for the CST program. Furthermore, she presented three possible options for the CST program:

1. Carry on first year intake as usual.
2. Close the program.
3. Suspend first year intake and renew it in the following year.

Martine commented that, after careful reflection and discussion with teachers, option number 3 is not something she would like to see unfold. Teachers had valid concerns -- in that, undergoing this option, it would put the program in a downward spiral.

Michael Sendbuehler, Faculty Dean of Careers and Technical Programs, revealed that the last program revision of the CST program by MELS was in 2006, but the process was not completed. The program evaluation however has been accelerated for Fall 2012. There are currently serious concerns about the academic quality of the program. Moreover he reported that the program's hardware and software are outdated - causing students to be unprepared for the workforce, and applications for the program are low.

It was said that the three remaining CST teachers cannot cover all of the course material that the 3-year program offers.

Tom Ingerman gave an update on the enrolment statistics for the CST program for this fall. He reported that there are 16 new students; 4 students on contract and 3 students in Adult Education still completing course modules that are in progress until mid-July. Thus, there is a potential for 19 students – but in reality, there are 15-16 student intake for Fall 2012. He then presented brief statistics from the past five years in the CST program:

- In 2008 – 16 students
- In 2009 – 22 students
- In 2010 – 17 students
- In 2011 – 28 students
- In 2012 – 15-16 students

Furthermore, he reported that approximately 10 students graduate every year and 17-18 students is the average intake per year. Tom said that if Vanier College suspends first year intake, which was an initial consideration, then other programs (alternatives) or other Cégep choices would have to be offered to the students.

Miles DeNora then did a comparison between the Computerized Systems Technology and Industrial Electronics program. He said that there are approximately 30-40 students every year. The intake per semester is comparable to CST – 16-18 students per semester. Michael Sendbuehler commented that for Industrial Electronics however, there is a better retention and graduation rate. The intake for CST has decreased in the last two years.

Ricardo Herrera asked if the CST courses taught are part of the new or previous program grid, and further asked if students are taking Industrial Electronics courses as well as CST courses. Tom Ingerman replied that the courses are similar, but are taught in different disciplines. Marc Passucci said that there is a possibility of reworking the grid – students can take the program's core courses as well as the General Education courses. He suggested building the courses around the three teachers, and getting the software updated and ready for Fall 2013. Marc further commented that suspension of first year intake would cause too much difficulty in terms of fitting the students in other programs, which is something they may not even want.

He suggested that the 2006 revision should be looked at and consider the recommendations – perhaps by-passing the evaluation and completing the revision process instead.

Martine suggested that teachers in other programs could take one or two CST courses. Mohamed Tavakoli noted that the three remaining CST teachers should thus inform us which courses they could take. It is also important to note that third year students will do a stage.

As discussion progressed, there was a consensus among Council regarding the idea that suspending the first year intake would not be the right direction to take, as it would put too much strain on the program and staff. Marianne Lynch suggested that perhaps first year students could take the time to complete their General Education courses to ensure that they are on the right track – Marianne stressed that this is of high importance and should be encouraged. Shirley Pettier added that there has been growing concern that these courses are not taken on time.

It was also said that there is some equipment in the Industrial Electronics labs that is currently not being used – and need only mere adjustments; there may be the ability to share this equipment with the CST program.

In terms of undergoing program evaluations for both Computerized Systems Technology and Industrial Electronics, Martine recommended to look out for a common foundation between the two models and proposed the idea that perhaps these two programs could merge in some way and identify the problematic areas. Michael Sendbuehler added that shared resources should be considered. And further, in the past, there has not been adequate program committee interaction.

Fred Andrews stressed that in addition to the first year incoming students, the current second and third year students also need support. He suggested perhaps by way of a technical task crew. Marc Passucci proposed looking into the French Cégeps that offer 243.C0 courses which could be a considerable option to students.

Moreover, Michael Sendbuehler noted that some teachers have expertise in other disciplines such as in software, electrical and computer engineering – it is important to look at the broader scope, as well as consider local resources. Job hirings into the discipline can be done both internally and externally and if formal postings are done, then the competencies need to be specified. Martine Gauthier added that there is still concern about hirings for third year intake, however she said that there are currently a few leads.

Janice Paquette raised another valid concern regarding the stage that is required in the CST program. She stressed that it should be done in the industry.

Lourdes Meana feared that the workload for the three remaining CST teachers would be too heavy and suggested postponing the program evaluations for one year. Caroline Hanrahan commented that if the CST program evaluation is suspended, then so should the evaluation for Industrial Electronics. It really would be ideal to do them at the same time. Martine Gauthier agreed with Lourdes and stressed that additional resources from the field should be brought in and have someone lead the process. Odette Côté, Faculty Dean of Social Science, Commerce, Arts & Letters, added that the problems at hand need to be addressed; proper resources and any additional funding need to be obtained in order to help support and solve the issues. Eric Lozowy, Faculty Dean of Science and General Studies said that all angles should be considered. He also commented that if first year intake is suspended perhaps it will not deteriorate the program. Martine suggested moving the program evaluations to Winter 2013, allowing for more groundwork to be covered in the fall.

Moreover, Lourdes suggested the following for December 2012:

- Stage in CST Industry. This should be advertised.
 - Look into program software; what is missing, etc.
 - Equipment – shared between Industrial Electronics or not. Again, find out what is needed and get it, etc.
- The idea of the above-mentioned being that that they will be ready for the Winter 2013.

Caroline Hanrahan noted that the program evaluations for Industrial Electronics and Computerized Systems Technology are aimed to be ready for **Winter 2013**. In the meantime, background data is currently being compiled and work on this will continue in the fall.

Based on the discussions of this meeting, Marianne Lynch moved that, in order to fully offer all components of a quality Computerized Systems Technology program to first, second, and third year students, Academic Council moves that the program members and Academic Administration work together to ensure that the required program equipment and human resources are provided; that a plan be put into effect for August 2012.

The motion was seconded by Miles DeNora and was passed unanimously.

Furthermore, Lourdes Meana moved that the plan that has been operationalized be presented to Academic Council for the first meeting of the Fall 2012 semester.

The motion was seconded by Isabelle Der Aprahamian and was passed unanimously.

4. Adjournment

Marianne Lynch moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Marc Passucci.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Gudzio