

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
Friday, October 12, 2012, 1:00 p.m., room F-216**

Present: R. Braley, V. Broege, C. Clough, O. Côté, M. DeNora, D. Gallagher, L. Gauthier, M. Gauthier, P. Labrinos, V. Lalonde, E. Lamoureux, E. Lozowy, D. Nyisztor, L. Millelire, M. Passucci, A. Philippas, M. Silva Foley

Regrets: M. Bucaro, K. Bushell

Non-Members: B. Chandler, G. Dracopoulos, J. Duheme, C. Hanrahan, W. Kalina, J. Macdonald, M. Magnan, L. Robinson

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus with the following changes:

- Item 5 a) **Agreement with the IUT of Troyes** was moved to the start of the meeting after *Approval of Minutes*.
- Item 6. i) **Printing Problems** was added under *Varia*.

Miles DeNora introduced the second student representative for Council from the V.C.S.A., Matthew Silva Foley.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2012

The minutes of September 21 were approved by consensus with a small correction made under item 3. a) Computerized Systems Technology Program - on page 2, paragraph 2: "Computer Science Technology" was corrected to "**Computerized Systems Technology.**"

5. Main Business

a) Agreement with the IUT of Troyes

George Dracopoulos, Business Administration, requested Council's approval on the renewal of the agreement between l'Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, Troyes, France, and Vanier College, Montréal, Canada – an exchange program for students primarily in Business Administration. George said that Vanier's partnership with IUT's is greatly valued – the College has partnerships with different IUT's across France and he would like the renewal to be approved. Currently, there are 45 Vanier students taking part – 33 of them are in Business Management and the remaining 12 students are in Micropublishing and Hypermedia. He also mentioned that three students taking part in the exchange are from Belgium.

George also stated that this is a cooperative agreement, in that, either party can withdraw their participation by providing a written statement.

Eric Lozowy, Faculty Dean of Science and General Studies, stressed that before the agreement is signed, it should go through a final linguistic revision, as there were some errors in grammar and consistency throughout the document. Judy Macdonald mentioned that someone from Canada/Québec Entente could be recruited to do this service for a fee, however the revision process could take up to a few weeks.

It was moved by Eric Lamoureux and seconded by Odette Côté to approve the agreement between the IUT of Troyes and Vanier College with expected linguistic revision of the final document. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Computerized Systems Technology Program

The last Computerized Systems Technology (CST) Program Committee meeting took place last Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. Louise Gauthier, Coordinator of Computer Science and Council representative for the Committee, reported on the topics of concern that were discussed at the meeting:

- i. The proposed grid as delivered by the Interim Coordinator; students are following the Industrial Electronics (243.C0) program grid – three CST courses were removed from the grid, which was of concern; also, 5-6 course ponderations removed from the original program grid.
- ii. Course substitutions;
- iii. CST program evaluation.

i - Eric Lozowy, Faculty Dean of Science and General Studies, asked whether course 203-104-VA Applied Science, would really be used as a complementary. In the original CST program grid, course 201-206-VA Introduction to Applied Mathematics, was taken as the first course in the first semester. Louise said that she will speak with Anita Barbagallo in Academic Advising about this and confirm with Tom Ingerman, the Registrar. She also said that perhaps the complementary will be honoured only in special cases. The alternative would be students completing extra hours in the program. It was understood that this is a compromise for the students in this cohort alone. If the student fails the course, he or she will make it up with another complementary course. It was stressed that complementary courses cannot be related to the program in which they are registered – the purpose is to be exposed to course content that is outside of their program.

Véronique Lalonde asked about course 247-213-VA Digital Systems, in semester 2, and whether Digital Circuits 243-234-VA was a prerequisite. Louise responded that 243-234-VA was usually done in the Autumn semester, but now it has been shifted to the Winter 2013 semester.

Rick Braley asked if the course ponderations have been removed from the original grid. Louise confirmed that they were. Marc Passucci said that it is important to note that there is a *commonality* between the Industrial Electronics and Computerized Systems Technology grids – but students are not totally following the Industrial Electronics grid. It is also important that once the grid is finalized, the students should be fully informed. Martine Gauthier said that the Faculty Deans should be present when this meeting takes place. The question was also raised that what if students prefer to continue in the Industrial Electronics program, would they be allowed. Louise said that they would proceed by doing a program transfer.

It was moved by Diane Nyisztor and seconded by Eric Lamoureux that Academic Council recommend the Proposed Grid Adjustment for Computerized Systems Technology for the A12 cohort. The motion was passed unanimously.

Diane Nyisztor thanked Louise Gauthier for all of her hard work and collaboration on this. Martine Gauthier seconded this mention.

ii – Louise Gauthier continued her report and stated that course substitutions would be offered for the following courses: **420-HTX** for 247-301-VA; **243-334-VA** for 247-313-VA; **420-530-VA** for 247-515-VA for the A10-A12 cohorts (3rd, 2nd, and 1st year students).

It was moved by Eric Lamoureux and seconded by Véronique Lalonde that Academic Council recommend the adoption of the course substitutions as presented by Louise Gauthier, as well as input from the Registrar on the complementary courses. The motion was passed unanimously.

iii - The implementation of course revisions must be put forth as soon as possible, as Caroline Hanrahan, Coordinator of the Institutional Development and Research Office, has already started to compile data. Martine Gauthier reiterated that an external evaluator should be brought in to help facilitate the process – someone who can bring in an objective opinion.

Moreover, additional points were brought up such as confirmation of the stage project in the CST program and what information will be conveyed to the public during Open House about the program and its impending evaluation. Students in their 5th semester must complete an 11-hour stage (165 hours in total); Louise Gauthier said that thus far, there has been no update on the details of the stage. She suggested that an alternative would be to compress the 6th semester, however, there is not a lot of time to prepare for either option. Martine Gauthier clarified that she put in an inquiry about the stage and is waiting for a response from the Interim Coordinator.

Either Martine or Michael Sendbuehler, Faculty Dean of Careers and Technical Programs, will follow-up with the CST Program Committee; this topic will be revisited at Council.

Caroline Hanrahan said that the new grid is anticipated to be ready for Fall 2013. Bev Chandler stressed that the most important message to communicate to potential students at Open House is that the Computerized Systems Technology program is still available and students can apply for it. And further, Angelo Philippos suggested that during Open House the grid should still be shown to potential students in its current format and made aware that it might be modified.

The Computerized Systems Technology program will be back on the agenda for the November 2nd meeting.

b) Renewal of the Director General's Mandate

Miles DeNora, Chair of the Mandate Renewal Committee (MRC), reported that at last Board of Directors' meeting on Sept. 27, 2012, the MRC members were named, five of whom are external Board members and the other one internal. Currently, the MRC is waiting for recommendations from Council. This discussion will be held strictly in camera. Peter Labrinos suggested leaving this item until the end of the meeting. An in-camera discussion took place concerning the Renewal of the Director General's Mandate at the end of the meeting.

c) Strategic Plan

Martine Gauthier updated Council on the Strategic Plan. She reported that Caroline Hanrahan and Shirley Pettifer have been working on an environmental scan – assessing such factors as external challenges, funding, student statistics, and success rates. The Strategic Plan Advisory Committee (SPAC) will meet next Monday and discuss this further. Martine said that she will facilitate the meeting and look at Vanier's mission versus Vanier's vision. The first draft of Vanier College's Mission Statement was delivered in 1992; the latest version, written in 2003, will be re-evaluated. Martine went on to say that a "Vision Statement," has yet to be developed. How does the College as a whole, relate to student success?

d) Student Success Plan

Martine continued discussion about the meaning of Student Success. College defines Student Success as academic success, but the meaning differs from College to College; what does it mean for Vanier? SPAC will also go through this visionary exercise and then take the results externally. Eric Lamoureux asked for more clarification on mission vs. vision. Martine said that our mission is our purpose – our vision is how it is achieved: through long-range decision-making. It further links with the external environment. The ultimate goal will thus be to merge the Strategic Plan with the Student Success Plan.

e) Cont. Ed. Restructuring

Martine Gauthier reported that she and the Director General met with an external consultant last week regarding the restructuring of the Continuing Education Department. The goal of the restructuring is to merge and physically integrate (with the help of a space expert), the College's services to better benefit the students. Core integration will affect the Admissions, Registrar's and Academic Advising departments as well as the three Faculties. The restructuring will also introduce a new Management structure.

Matthew Silva Foley spoke with some students in Continuing Education and he reported that several were surprised to hear that they had services for them within the College. Matthew stressed that it is important to make sure that these students are included in the College's services. Martine concurred and added that this is certainly a priority.

Eric Lamoureux asked whether Faculty members will be integrated as well in the new structure. Martine said that there is still ongoing discussion about how this will be coordinated. Diane Nyisztor added that discussion about resources will also need to take place.

Cari Clough suggested that in order to properly serve students, perhaps certain departments and services could extend their hours to fully accommodate them. Martine said that there is overlap between the Day Division and Continuing Education, especially as far as student records are concerned – but the services should be in one space. External sources of funding will be looked at to integrate this physical space.

Discussion then turned to Post-Secondary graduation statistics and it was reported that Vanier College is consistently 12% below the Réseau, and 10% below the Anglo Colleges. In 2004, Vanier's graduation rate was at 50.5%, as compared to 61% for Anglo Public and 59% for Dawson. In 2005, Vanier was at 51.6%, as compared to 61% Anglo Public and 58.5% for Dawson. And in 2006, Vanier was at 50%, as compared to 62.5% Anglo Public and 60.8% for Dawson. It was noted that the pattern was consistent, but the goal now is to better understand the bigger picture – the contributing factors for these results, for example, demographics, resource-based factors, etc, that tailor to students' needs.

Caroline Hanrahan said that they will look at the whole environmental scan and make hypotheses based on such factors, which could be indicators towards students' success rates. Comparisons will be done by program. Judy Macdonald also said that it would be good to look at the English Exit Exam results as well.

Eric Lozowy pointed out that the other graduation rates were also very low and the Ministry of Education needs to address this. Furthermore, the issue of how many students go on to University and how well they do should also be looked at.

4. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence

a) Board of Directors

Martine updated Council on the items that were passed at the last Board of Directors' meeting:

- Board membership was voted upon;
- The revised 2012-2013 Academic Calendar was approved;
- Conflict of Interest Policy was approved;
- Research Ethics Policy was approved;
- International Education agreements were approved;
- Discussed long-term borrowing;
- Received capital budgets;

- Discussed the Renewal of the Director General's Mandate.

Moreover, Martine reported that the Human Resources Department is working proactively on the hiring recommendations and meeting with hiring committees.

Rick Braley raised a concern about a colleague in his department who did not receive a response for hiring until after three months during the summer. Martine said that both she and Human Resources were aware of this situation and they are looking into it to see where communication was dropped.

She further stated that discussion on Student Success needs to be a part of the Board meetings from now on, being in conjunction with the Strategic Plan.

b) Joint Coordinators

Diane Nyisztor gave a report on the topics that were discussed at the last Joint Coordinators' Committee meeting that took place on October 3, 2012. The report is appended to these minutes.

c) Academic Space

Eric Lozowy, Chair of the Academic Space Committee, reported that they met briefly recently and established priorities for the academic year. They identified areas that tie to the Strategic Plan and Student Success Plan that need to be of focus. Discussions centered on classrooms and configuration of space, in order to promote better student success. Each department will have different needs and the Academic Department Coordinators will have to be informed of those needs. He said that there will be more information to come.

Matthew Silva Foley raised concern about lack of space and lack of study space for students, especially in Continuing Education. Martine Gauthier acknowledged this issue and said that a contributing factor is that the College is above capacity.

6. Varia

i) Printing Problems

Eric Lamoureux and Angelo Philippos stated that on three accounts this semester printers for students were not working, which caused problems for them when assignments were due. Bev Chandler asked them to give her the exact locations so that she can investigate this further.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Gudzio

Report for Academic Council

October 12, 2012

Joint Coordinators October 3, 2012.

1. Parking update was provided. Six of the hourly parking spaces have been eliminated and these are now for decal parking.
2. Discussion on fraudulent medical notes - Student Services will be at the next meeting to clarify and discuss this issue further.
3. College Wide Sustainability Major - request for Departments to see if they could offer any courses for this major.
4. Shirley Pettifer discussed the Strategic Plan and that currently she is focusing on the Environmental Scan. Shirley is seeking input from Departments on four questions and offered to attend Department meetings to explain this further.
5. Student Success Plan, Martine Gauthier explained that this is at the core of the Strategic Plan and that the Long Range Planning Committee, of Academic Council, is working on this.
6. Power point presentation on the new selection process.
7. Robert Isabelle presented By-Law 9 Concerning Contract for Goods and Services and Construction.
8. Miles DeNora presented the request for feedback for the Director General's Mandate Renewal