

JOINT COORDINATORS' MEETING

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

ATTENDANCE:

Ali Alousi	Gary Granger	Lisa Millelire
George Archer	Rivka Guttman	Rhena Moscovitch
Ron Bianchi	Subash Handa	Stephen Newbigging
Patrick Bouwman	Serge Hervouet-Zeiber	Diane Nyisztor
Wilma Brown	Don Hetherington	Maria Panzuto
Gabriel Bulgarea	Cheryl Holmes	Dave Peters
Kevin Bushell	Ivan Ivanov	Shirley Pettifer
Shernaz Choksi	Hermine Janjanian	Julie Plante
Miles DeNora	Bachar Karkoukli	Claire Salzberg
Mauro Di Renzo	Renée LeCavalier	Ioannis Stavrianos
Georges Dracopoulos	Sevak Manjikian	Arlene Steiger
Hodé Erdogan	Myriam Mansour	Margaret Surridge
Shirley Fee	Fred Mayer	Dianne Tessier
Joan Fee Taylor	Peggy McCoy	Nadia Turbide
Aurora Flewwelling-Skup	John McMahan	Joe Twardowski
Louise Gauthier	Lourdes Meana	Quentin Van Ginhoven
		Nancy Wargny

1. **Approval of the Agenda:**

Approved with 3 items added: (5) **Members' Concerns:** Ron Bianchi re: Printshop; Rhena Moscovitch re: Registration and (6) **Reports and Correspondence:** John Stavrianos re: FAC Awards

2. **Approval of the Minutes of December 6, 2006:** approved with no corrections.

3. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

a) IB Commerce Program (J. McMahan)

The College has decided to proceed with the recommendation from Academic Council to suspend admission for Fall 2007. Coordinators and The Registrar are currently looking into potential adverse effects re: the suspension.

b) Guidelines for Guest Speakers (P. McCoy)

Peggy McCoy, who volunteered to draw up the form and guidelines for Guest speakers, made a brief presentation about the purpose of the Guest speaker form and guidelines and clarified what signatures are required under what circumstances. A long and animated discussion ensued and is here summarized.

A number of faculty members expressed varying levels of dissatisfaction with the spirit and letter of the form and guidelines developed for the procurement of guest speakers. These faculty members perceived:

- the procedure as too complicated (ie: number of signatures) and introducing unnecessary red tape which has the unintended effect of discouraging guest speakers;
- the guidelines and request process as infringing on academic freedom;
- the guidelines as demeaning of faculty's pedagogical judgement;
- the combination of student and teacher requests on a single form as inappropriate.

There were mixed views among faculty regarding the need to inform Security about all guest speakers; whereas some faculty questioned this procedure, at least one faculty member believed that informing Security about anticipated visitors had been useful in helping visitors find their way to the lecture venue.

Peggy McCoy reiterated that not all three signatures indicated on the form were required for all events. She clarified the following:

- For in-class speakers, the Faculty Dean's signature suffices.
- For guest speakers invited by students, the signature of the Coordinator of Student Services suffices.
- For big-name speakers, the Director-General's signature is required.
- In all cases, a copy of the form is forwarded to Communications (for the purpose of advertising where applicable) and Security.

The Academic Dean assured Joints that the intent of the request procedure for Guest speakers was neither to infringe upon Academic freedom, question teacher's pedagogical judgment or introduce unnecessary red-tape but to strike a balance between Academic freedom and security and to protect against extreme cases.

It was resolved that an ad-hoc committee be struck to redraft the form and guidelines to better reflect the stated intent of the procedure and to keep red-tape to a minimum. Ali Alousi, Patrick Bouwman, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup and Don Hetherington volunteered for this committee and Gary Granger committed to bringing some recommendations to the Committee.

The Academic Dean thanked Peggy McCoy for her efforts in drawing this first draft of the form and guidelines.

4. **New Business**

a) Academic Calendar (D. Tessier)

Dianne distributed the Academic calendar for 2007-2008 which, after feedback from Joints will be brought to Academic Council and then to the Board for approval.

The early start of Registration (January 2, 2008) was the subject of heated debate.

Rhena Moscovitch, representing her department, strongly objected to the January 2 starting date. She believes that it would be impossible to process the hundreds of files of students not in good academic standing by that date and that service to students will be adversely affected; when students not in good academic standing are not cleared on time for their registration appointment time, it means they must be given a

new appointment time which can become a real problem. She attributed these problems to an antiquated registration system.

The Coordinator of Modern Languages (Serge Hervouet-Zeiber) also expressed concern about how his department will process students not in good academic standing on time for them to register during their appointment time, especially since Modern Languages, Communications and some Technologies are the first to register.

One faculty member echoed those concerns and asked that the date be moved up as at Dawson. The Registrar said this would be impossible because our registration system is antiquated and needs time and because of the Intersession in January. She perceived the early date as “doable” especially given new programs which communicate to our students earlier than in the past. She emphasized that starting early was important given an ageing computer system and the recent increase in student numbers.

One faculty member asked if the proposed \$800,000 the college was promised from the Ministry could be put to a new registration system. The Registrar responded that a new registration system is already in the works (SRIC) but that it is a mammoth project. They are hoping a trial version will be in place in June of this year but that a new registration system is two to three semesters away.

The Coordinator of Modern Languages expressed another concern regarding the May intersession courses which are down to only 12 days.

One faculty member asked if there was any chance of adding a one day break in the Fall semester for students and teachers but The Registrar responded that this would cut into the traditional 4.5 days past the examination deadline allotted to marking.

A VCTA representative clarified that the 4.5 day limit for submitting marks was a one-time agreement between the VCTA, and not a tradition, and that a similar agreement can be struck again.

5. Members' Concerns

1) Cessation of Print Shop Date Stamping Service: A faculty member expressed two concerns: 1) that the Print Shop is no longer offering to date stamp student work and that this may unfairly penalize students and 2) that cell phones in the classroom continue to be a problem. Several faculty members believed that the reason for dropping this service relates to staff cut-backs and the increasing number of papers and homework that are submitted towards the end of the semester which are sometimes in the hundreds per day.

2) Cell phones in the Classroom: With respect to the faculty member's second concern, Joins was reminded that there is a policy about electronic devices (IPESA) but that it is up to the teacher to enforce and reiterate the policy in their outlines.

3) Problems with the Registration System: Rhena Moscovitch, representing her department, voiced great concern and frustration with the existing registration system and stated that it continues to be a very difficult process for all concerned. The still ongoing registration has engendered problems resulting in 5074 phone calls to the

help desk and 2674 e-mails to date. Students find the registration process difficult and anxiety-producing; part of the problem being that 20 students are allotted per half hour registration appointment but only 12 lines are open. The Academic Dean assured Joints that online registration is in the works, pending the operationalization of the SRIC system which is still 2 to 3 semesters away and reminded Joints that this is a mammoth project involving 25 other colleges. He assured Joints that the services we anticipate will be delivered and that there is currently a lot of activity in this regard.

4) Coordinator Access to Student Records: A faculty member expressed a long-standing frustration among Coordinators regarding lack of access to student records. This is especially problematic in Nursing where allocation and stages must be precise. Several coordinators questioned the logic of having students sent to them for permission to take courses given they cannot access records to solve the problem. The Registrar explained that the problem involves issues of confidentiality but that teachers can request that students send them their transcript through Omnivox or e-mail; a process Coordinators agreed often takes too long given the time-constraints of the Registration period. The Academic Dean requested some time to familiarize himself with the problem and promised to get back to Joints on this issue.

6. Reports and Correspondence:

a) Board of Directors: (J. McMahon)

i) Director General and The Academic Dean reported at the meeting of Dec 12, 2006.

ii) Board approved 2 program revisions: Micropublishing and HyperMedia (old DDMT) and Environmental and Wildlife Management (old Ecological Technology). Congratulations were extended to John and Patty for a job well done.

iii) Vanier will be developing a Centre collégial de transfert technologique (CCTT)

iv) There was a lengthy discussion about the development by the Director General's office of a revision of the Strategic Management Plan. It was agreed that the Board would have a working meeting set for January 18, 2007 and the DG will address Academic Council on January 19.

b) Faculty Reports

Faculty of Social Science, Arts and Letters: Shirley Pettifer reported on her Faculty's new procedures for processing students who are not in good academic standing. She believed that this new procedure has allowed for the processing of students in a "really efficient and meaningful way". She extended her gratitude to Linda Loney, Advising, Scheduling, the Dean's office and all those who participated in the handling of over 200 students in just a few days.

Continuing Education: W. Brown reported that registration is still underway and that she will make tallies available to Coordinators requesting them.

The Dean of Technologies extended public thanks to The Registrar, Admissions and Advising for their flexibility and willingness to help during the ongoing registration period.

c) FAC Awards (John Stavrianos)

Congratulations to Philippe Gagné and Marcel Pérez (Modern Languages) and Avrum Dunsky (Physics) who won 2 of the 4 FAC awards, wherein 17 colleges competed. Winners are awarded \$750 and details can be found at www.lafac.qc.ca.

The Academic Dean wished everyone a good semester and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Lourdes Meana.