



558TH MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2014

7:00 P.M.

TOMLINSON HALL, MCGREER 100

AGENDA

558/1 Approval of Agenda

558/2 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Minutes of the 557th meeting of Senate

558/3 Communications from the Chair

558/4 Business Arising

558/5 Committee Items

5.1 Report of the Teaching Evaluation Committee – J. Savage

5.2 Report of Senate Nominating Committee - G. Gagné

5.3 Report of Senate Research Committee – M. Turnbull

558/6 Other Matters

6.1 Environmental Sustainability Policy - D. Bardati, V. Meikle

557/7 Recommendations

7.1 Williams School of Business

7.2 Arts and Science

7.2.1 Division of Humanities

7.2.2 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

7.2.3 Division of Social Sciences

7.3 School of Education

7.4 Continuing Education

558/8 Information items

8.1 Quebec election, April 7th, 2014 – H. Rouleau

8.2 Sessional dates, 2014-15

8.2 Meeting dates, 2014-15 – V. Meikle



SENATE
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MINUTES OF THE 558TH MEETING

The 558th meeting of Senate took place on March 17th, at 7:00 p.m., in McGreer 100.

Chair: Principal Michael Goldbloom

Present: Dr. Avril Aitken, Dr. Darren Bardati, Mr. Andrew-Philip Baronet, Mr. Trevor Blasky, Dr. Jamie Crooks, Dr. Gilbert Gagné, Dr. Bruce Gilbert, Mr. Bruno Gnassi, Dr. Kerry Hull, Dr. Jean Manore, Dr. Adrianna Mendrek, Dr. Laurie Milner, Ms Clare Murphy, Dr. Michele Murray, Dr. Michael Richardson, Mr. Hans Rouleau, Dr. Cranmer Rutihinda, Ms Cedar Swartz-Fisher, Ms Alessandra Tiano, Dr. Sylvain Turcotte, Dr. Calin Valsan, Ms Allison Verville, Dr. Marianne Vigneault Dr. Trygve Ugland

Regrets: Dr. Hafid Aggouram, Dr. Trevor Gulliver,

Secretary: Ms Victoria Meikle

The Principal called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

He asked the new Vice-President Academic of the Students' Representative Council, Chelsea McLellan, to introduce herself.

558/1 Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated.

558/2 Approval of Minutes of the 557th meeting of Senate

Sylvain Turcotte moved approval of the minutes of the 557th meeting of Senate, and Cedar Swartz-Fischer seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

558/3 Communications from the Chair

Transition to new Vice-Principal Academic

The Principal thanked Interim Vice-Principal Jamie Crooks for his service to the University noting that we had reached the end of the transition period and that incoming Vice-Principal Academic Miles Turnbull had assumed all duties.

Funding outlook

The 'reinvestment' promised by the Government of Quebec was turning out not to be one in the context of budget cuts and of government decisions to use reinvestment monies to fund existing commitments.

Most Quebec Universities had joined forces to purchase a newspaper advertisement directed to the four party leaders, making the point that Quebec universities receive about \$5,000 less per student than institutions elsewhere in Canada, and asking that the gap be closed.

Chantier on University Funding

The Principal, the Vice-Principal Finance and Administration and the Secretary General and Vice-Principal Government Relations and Planning had had a second meeting with the Co-chairs of the Working Group on University Funding that came out of the February 2013 Summit on higher education. They had made a case for better funding of the liberal education mission and of small universities. They had also argued that international students should, at a minimum, pay tuition fees equivalent to the fees paid by Canadian students from outside Quebec. The outgoing government had indicated in its spring 2014 budget that it intended to re-examine international student fees.

Learning Commons

The University had issued a request for proposals from architects and engineers for a Learning Commons Project in three phases. The mandate for the first phase was to take the programming proposal developed by consultants and estimate the cost of building it. The engineers had been selected and it was expected that the architects would be selected by March 31st. The preliminary feasibility study was to be delivered within 90 days of entering a contract.

B.E.S.T. students

The annual competition for B.E.S.T. awards had taken place, and because funding requests were somewhat more modest than in previous years, it had been possible to give a few more awards. The Principal expressed his thanks to Senators and others who had sponsored students in the competition.

Academic activities

The Principal noted that the annual QUEUC Conference, organised by Dr. Jessica Riddell, had been a great success.

The celebrations for the 9th annual Research Week were scheduled for the week of March 24th. A volume of the *Journal of Eastern Townships Studies* devoted to reflections from members of the *Université de Sherbrooke* and Bishop's communities on the proposed *Charte de la laïcité*, would be launched during Research Week. Dr. Claude Charpentier had edited the volume.

558/4 Business Arising

There was no business arising.

558/5 Committee Items

5.1 Report of the Teaching Evaluation Committee

Jade Savage, Chair of the Teaching Evaluation Committee, presented Document 558/5.1, the Report of the Teaching Evaluation Committee.

The Committee had been asked to consider two questions:

- i. The Evaluation Committee had asked how the evaluation process should be applied in courses involving team teaching.
- ii. Senate had asked, at the request of Dr. Hafid Agourram, whether it might be effective to move to online evaluation.

In relation to courses that are team-taught, the Committee recommended that a faculty member have delivered at least one-third of the classes in order to be evaluated.

The Committee had consulted with U-4 universities and concluded that online evaluations were probably not suited to Bishop's needs. In order to determine whether online evaluations would be cost-effective, we would have to assess the costs of the current process. It was suggested that a pilot project with some senior faculty members might provide additional information.

The Teaching Evaluation Committee noted that:

- ♦ The current instrument should be re-evaluated by those with expertise in pedagogy, with a view to be adapting it to the needs of students and faculty in different disciplines and for different class sizes and formats.
- ♦ Students need to be systematically informed of the purposes of the evaluation.
- ♦ S. 7.06 of the collective agreement should be amended to make explicit the use that can be made of teaching evaluations by the Evaluation Committee.

Senate received the Report of the Teaching Evaluation Committee and asked the Vice-Principal Academic to determine how the recommendations might be taken forward.

5.2 *Report of Senate Nominating Committee*

Gilbert Gagné, Chair of Senate Nominating Committee, moved the appointment of Candace Harries to the Committee on Continuing Education and Laurie Milner seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

5.3 *Report of Senate Research Committee*

Vice-Principal Academic Miles Turnbull thanked Trygve Ugland who, as Chair of the Senate Research Committee, had supported Interim Vice-Principal Academic Jamie Crooks. He acknowledged the important work done in the Research Office by Sylvie Côté and Eugénie Cadieux-Pinsonnault, and gave a brief summary of the activities planned for research week.

The Committee had received a record number of submissions for internal grants, and had funded 16 of the 28 requests. Faculty had also made strong submissions to SSHRC and NSERC as well as the Quebec funding agencies.

Collaborations with the *Université de Sherbrooke* continued to grow, including with the *Centre de recherche sur le vieillissement*.

The Vice-Principal had organised a writing retreat at Jouvence to provide support to faculty who wanted to develop grant-application skills.

The Senate Research Committee had undertaken a review of the research clusters and would bring recommendations to Senate in due course.

558/6 *Other Matters*

6.1 *Environmental Sustainability Policy*

Darren Bardati, member of the Sustainable Development Committee of the Board of Governors, and Victoria Meikle, Secretary General and Vice-Principal Government Relations and Planning, spoke to Document 558/6.1, the revised Environmental Sustainability Policy that would be recommended to the Board for approval on March 21st.

It was noted that the areas covered by the policy were under Board jurisdiction, and the policy had been distributed to Senate for information purposes. An action plan would be developed from the policy, and an audit is conducted every three years.

The Vice-Principal Academic undertook to look into the existence of a Committee mandated to look at ways of integrating environmental concerns into the curriculum and report back to Senate.

558/7 Recommendations from the Divisions

7.1 Williams School of Business

There were no recommendations from the Williams School of Business.

7.2 Arts and Science

7.2.1 Division of Humanities

There were no recommendations from the Division of Humanities.

7.2.2 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

There were no recommendations from the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

7.2.3 Division of Social Sciences

There were no recommendations from the Division of Social Sciences.

7.3 School of Education

There were no recommendations from the School of Education.

7.4 Continuing Education

There were no recommendations from the Continuing Education.

558/8 Information items

8.1 Quebec election, April 7th 2014

The Registrar advised Senate that, in conformity with Quebec law, academic activities would be suspended on Election Day, April 7th 2014.

In collaboration with the Director General of Elections a poll would be made available on campus to students on Election Day and for four days of advanced polls.

8.2 Sessional dates, 2014-15 and 2015-16

Vice-Principal Miles Turnbull moved the approval of sessional dates for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years, as set out in Document 558/8.2, with the proviso that the dates of March break would be confirmed once public school calendars become available. Clare Murphy seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Following some discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of a reading week in the Fall term, Gilbert Gagné moved that the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy

Committee consider the advantages and disadvantages of a reading week in the Fall term and report back to Senate, and Adrianna Mendrek seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

8.3 Meeting dates, 2014-15

The Secretary General circulated meeting dates for the 2014-15 academic year.

There being no further business, the 558th meeting of Senate adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



Michael Goldbloom, Chair



Victoria Meikle, Secretary