

Minutes of the meeting of the **Academic Policy and Planning Committee** held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Room 310, James Building

Present: M. Mendelson (chairing), G. Brown, L. Butler-Kisber, W. Caplin, V. Errunza, J. Feine, W. Hendershot, P. Holland, J.C. Hurtubise, D. Jutras, J. Nemes, I. O'Reilly, M. Reed, S. Stroud, H.F. Upham, H.M.C. Richard (Secretary to the Committee)

Regrets: D. Fraser, A. C. Masi, S. McDougall, M. Nahon, T. Rivard, J. Schmidt, M. Szyf, D. Thérien

Guest : M. Grant (item 5.b)

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**05.01 Proposed agenda**

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

**05.02 Minutes of meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

The minutes were approved as circulated.

**05.03 Business arising**

- Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR)

It was reported that, since approval in principle was granted by APPC on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 for the establishment of CREOR provided resource arrangements for the launching of the Centre are in place to the Interim Provost's satisfaction, negotiations have taken place between the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Religious Studies in particular. The letter from the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Arts will be submitted once all units within the Faculty of Arts have been duly consulted. The Provost intends to submit the proposal for the establishment of CREOR to Senate for approval at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006 (as part of APPC's 378<sup>th</sup> Report). Updates to the proposal will be circulated to APPC for information at that time.

**05.04 Report on Senate approvals: APPC's 376<sup>th</sup> Report (11<sup>th</sup> January 2006)**

Senate on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006 approved the following program proposals:

- M.A. in Political Science; Neotropical Environment
- M.A. in Political Science; Non-Thesis – Neotropical Environment
- Certificate in Translation; Spanish
- M.Sc. in Dental Sciences; Non-Thesis
- M.Sc. in Mathematics; Bioinformatics
- Ph.D. in Mathematics; Bioinformatics

**05.05 CGPS: Dean's Honour's List (DHL)**

- Memo from Dr. James A. Nemes, Chair of CGPS, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005 (05-APPC-02-32)

Interim Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies James Nemes presented the proposal by CGPS to eliminate the Dean's Honour's List for doctoral programs after the June 2006 Convocation, but to retain it for master's programs. He noted that when the proposal was considered by the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies five years earlier, students pleaded to keep the DHL for doctoral programs. Students have now concluded that the DHL awarded to doctoral students is a source of tension and should be abolished. Among the G10 institutions, Université de Montréal is the only one that has a similar distinction.

For all the reasons stated in the memorandum submitted by Professor James Nemes, and on motion by Professor Nemes, seconded by Professor Butler-Kisber, **APPC agreed that the proposal to eliminate the Dean's Honour's List for doctoral programs after the June 2006 Convocation, but retain it for**

**master's programs, should be submitted to Senate for approval.** (This proposal will be included in the 378<sup>th</sup> APPC Report to Senate for consideration on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006)

05.06 **Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP)**

a) Report on electronic review held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005 (05-APPC-02-33)

The report did not contain any items requiring APPC approval.

b) Report on meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006 (05-APPC-02-34)

- *Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List*, Faculty of Science

Dean of Science Martin Grant presented the proposal which is consistent with a program of initiatives undertaken by the Faculty of Science to increase research opportunities for undergraduate students. It is intended to acknowledge the substantial participation of students in broad undergraduate research. The proposed DMURL is a mechanism that allows recognition of students who explore research in the disciplines of other departments and acknowledges participation in undergraduate research courses on students' transcripts. While the courses have been approved by SCTP, the criteria presented in Appendix A of the SCTP Report was referred to APPC for consideration and approval.

Discussion by APPC dealt mainly with concerns about the status of the acknowledgement on students' transcripts (not honorific); financial compensation of students; the renovation of laboratories for inquiry-based learning; the capacity of available projects to accommodate the number of interested students; and cost. Costs will be absorbed by Faculty but the DMURL may be attractive to private donors. It was noted that the proposed DMURL was a way to develop student/professor interaction and attract graduate students.

APPC members expressed support for the proposal and viewed this as the possible beginning of a trend. APPC wished to see the DMURL extended to other faculties.

On motion by Professor Sarah Stroud, seconded by Professor Jocelyne Feine, **APPC approved the Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List proposed by the Faculty of Science, for submission to Senate for information, with the suggestion that it be broadened to include other faculties.**

(APPC approval will be reported in APPC's 377<sup>th</sup> Report to Senate).

05.07 **Other business**

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

*Helen M.C. Richard 2006-02-09*