

JACFA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 12, 2004

10:00 a.m.

01. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Eric Laferrière; seconded by Larry Weller.

Passed unanimously.

02. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Joe Silverman; seconded by Rémi Cardinal.

Passed unanimously.

03. Announcements

Jim Leeke thanked Barbara De Lorenzi for her 16 years of service. He noted that as President she kept JACFA afloat during many difficult periods. He added that she was a superb administrator who also served and dutifully on the Health and Safety Committee. She had to resort to a variety of ingenious tactics to keep Larry Weller and Ed Palumbo under control when they were on the Executive. Barbara thanked everybody for her gift and their support over the years.

1. Financial Motions

(a) Vin d'honneur at Convocation, 2004 - \$1,000

Motion: Be it resolved that JACFA make a donation of \$1000.00 to assist the payment for the vin d'honneur at Convocation, 2004 and that suitable credit be given to JACFA on the convocation program as in previous years. – moved by C. Lester; seconded by P. Green.

Moved by Jim Vanstone; seconded by Sharon Rosen-Aspler

Passed unanimously.

(b) FNEEQ “Chargé-es de Cours” Unions in Labour Conflict - \$300.00

Motion: Be it resolved that JACFA donate \$300.00 to the FNEEQ fund in support of “Chargé-es de cours” negotiations. – Executive Motion

Peter Solonysznyj reported that the Université de Laval sessional instructors were on strike for three weeks and at least two other unions comprised of sessional instructors are in a similar situation. FNEEQ has created a common pot to support these unions who all negotiate separately.

Daniel Gosselin said that \$300 seems like a small amount. Peter responded that this is the standard amount that FNEEQ has asked each union to give.

Abe Sosnowicz called the question; seconded by Eric Laferrière.
Passed unanimously.

2. Incorporation

Motion: Be it resolved that JACFA incorporate under the Professional Syndicates Act R.S.Q. ch. S-40 A to better protect faculty members and JACFA executive from liability. – Executive Motion

Pierre Gauthier stated that members of the JACFA Executive are liable in any civil suit filed against the union for up to \$1000. It is free to incorporate and protects the JACFA Executive members, but we need fifteen Canadian citizens to sign the incorporation forms. There is no liability for signers. Daniel Gosselin asked if our administrative assistant, Louise Samoisette, is liable. Pierre responded no. Linda Gelston asked if JACFA Executive members can sign the incorporation forms. Pierre responded yes. Eric Laferrière asked why we want to incorporate now? Pierre responded that a new trend is emerging in suing unions for cases of psychological harassment, for instance. Peter Solonysnyj added that at the FNEEQ Regroupement Cegep, all unions have been encouraged to incorporate. Paul Jones stated that he does not like it when companies absolve themselves of personal responsibility by incorporating. Pierre noted that we will be protected in civil not criminal suits. Jim Leeke added that liability will be limited to the assets of the union, not the Executive members' assets. Pierre added that incorporation is good protection at no cost. Jim stated that we should have incorporated before. Deirdre King stated that it is a good idea to incorporate as we want to encourage people to sit on the Executive.

Larry Weller called the question; seconded by Abe Sosnowicz. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions.

3. College Forum

Peter Solonysnyj stated that the provincial government will be holding a “Forum on the Future of College Education” in Quebec City on June 9 and 10. It will probably be followed by a parliamentary commission this fall, to precede possible legislative changes to the Cegep Act. The Minister of Education, Pierre Reid, has not reached a conclusion on the issue of cegeps, so he could be swayed either way. However, the government is in trouble politically. The school commissions are officially proposing the abolition of cegeps. They want to teach technical education, a twelfth year of high school and have four-year undergraduate programs in the universities. As for the universities, CREPUQ will probably back the school commissions as they are upset at the Ministry of Education for not taking their demands for financing seriously. Meanwhile, the Fédération des Cégeps commissioned the “Fortin Report” demolishing the school commission’s position. The Director Generals have mobilized around a document entitled, “*Un cégep*

résolument ancré dans l'enseignement supérieur.” Based on a questionable consultation process, the document calls for decentralization, local control of general education, a curriculum geared to local industry and flexibility. Peter encouraged us to participate in the on-line forum at: www.forumcollegial.org, and let people know at the College. He will send us information about the mobilization for June 9 and 10 in Quebec City.

Ed Holland added that the Université de Laval has publicly stated that they are opposed to the idea of abolishing cegeps.

Daniel Gosselin stated that the topic of general education pops up in these discussion as it is seen as hindering student success. Peter responded that though the discussion in the press has been general, the Fédération has specific ideas about changing general education to say teaching four technical writing courses, so we need to watch out for their next move.

Cheryl Jenkins said that the College is allowed four delegates: the Director General, the chair of the Board of Governors, one student (Vincent Pellerin), and one staff representative (Cheryl Jenkins) who will attend a series of four workshops with such themes as financing, student paths, the development of the Quebec economy followed by a plenary address.

Michel Milot criticized the online forum pointing out that it is unclear how the Ministry will process the input they receive from the public. He also said that at the last Academic Council meeting, our director general came to discuss the Forum but did not stay for the debate after he did his presentation and answered some questions. The timing of the forum (June 9 and 10) is also awkward for teachers and students.

Chantal Pelletier stated that her PDHT students benefit from being with pre-university students in general education courses.

Eric Laferrière reported that he has heard discussion of the Ministry considering letting students graduate who have failed general education courses as long as they have an overall passing average.

Deirdre King asked if the Executive knows the director general's position on general education. Peter responded that Henderson is in favour of a strong general education program, but not for all programs, i.e. different general education component for pre-university and technologies: “strong but not common.”

Joe Silverman stated that it is wasteful to regenerate ourselves every eight years. He added German educators evaluated our cegep model and liked it; he proposed that we begin to market it.

Pierre-Normand Vailloncourt noted that the Forum is biased as the groups allowed to present briefs were chosen by the government.

Larry Weller stated that general education should not be decided by the College. He will send his first set of essays to Henderson to show him the level of English written by our students.

Renée Lallier said that she is frightened by the proposed changes to the cegeps and general education and asked where the young teachers are whose jobs are at risk. Abe Sosnowicz said that there are federal offenses that require less prison time than high school.

Daniel Gosselin noted that we should fear those who promote the idea that the students should be reading technical material instead of Shakespeare.

Michel Milot added that the Henderson and Deborah Buszard of McGill are collaborating on an international “Carrefour” of biotechnology, which is linked to the ten-year plan for the City of Montreal.

Deirdre King noted that Statistics Canada has demonstrated that what is most crucial for immigrants is not technical education but rather strong language skills in order for them to garner employment.

4. College Strategic Plan

The College is working on a five-year strategic plan, which began with a consultation with outside groups, followed by our breakfast meeting last January and has continued throughout the semester via focus groups. The College will not meet the government’s deadline for producing the final draft of the plan, so the consultation process will carry on into the fall. Rekha Iyer stated the College’s weakness is human resources: the College needs more teachers and should implement a learner-centred environment. She added that the administration needs to work to dispel the feeling of distrust many JAC faculty believes exists at the College.

Edward Holland stated that if the administration wants to make JAC an “employer of choice” then it must give teachers a meaningful say in the running of the institution and not just throw a party now and then. Barbara De Lorenzi added that this concern was expressed in a Human Resources focus groups that was held with the unions.

Steve Orlov moved to adjourn; Violaine Arès seconded the motion.
The meeting was adjourned.

Elections

Nominations for JACFA President

Daniel Gosselin announced that he had received a nomination for Faye Trecartin for President.

Edward Holland moved that nominations be closed; Violaine Arès seconded the motion.

Faye Trecartin was elected as President.

Nominations for JACFA Directors

Daniel Gosselin announced that he had six nominations for the six director positions: Stephen Bryce, Pierre Gauthier, Jane Hannah, Jim Leeke, Michel Milot, and Peter Solonysznyj.

Edward Holland moved that nominations be closed; Violaine Arès seconded the motion.

Stephen Bryce, Pierre Gauthier, Jane Hannah, Jim Leeke, Michel Milot, and Peter Solonysznyj were elected with one abstention.

Nominations for Academic Council

Daniel Gosselin announced that he had received 10 nominations for candidates for Academic Council: Stephen Bryce, Pierre Gauthier, Cheryl Jenkins, Chantal Pelletier,

Yves Saint-Pierre, Bert Somers, Abe Sosnowicz, James Vanstone, Kevin Williams, Carl Witchel.

Christine Jacobs asked that we give new faculty a chance to meet the candidates. From the floor, Suzanne Black nominated Rekha Iyer; seconded by Cheryl Jenkins. Edward Holland moved to close the nominations; seconded by Francine Gervais.

Stephen Bryce, Pierre Gauthier, Cheryl Jenkins, Chantal Pelletier, Yves Saint-Pierre, Bert Somers, Abe Sosnowicz, James Vanstone, Kevin Williams, Carl Witchel and Rekha Iyer were unanimously elected as Academic Councillors.

Academic Council Substitutes

Stephen Bryce noted that substitutes for Academic Council will only be asked to attend meetings if someone resigns.

Edward Holland nominated Violaine Arès; seconded by Pierre-Normand Vaillancourt. Rekha Iyer nominated Suzanne Black; seconded by Violaine Arès. Rémi Cardinal nominated Steven Landry; seconded by Cheryl Jenkins. Faye Trecartin nominated Pierre-Normand Vaillancourt; seconded by Francine Gervais. Edward Holland moved to close the nominations; seconded by Violaine Arès.

Violaine Arès, Suzanne Black, Steven Landry and Pierre-Normand Vaillancourt were unanimously elected as Academic Council substitutes.

Professional Development Committee

Daniel Gosselin announced that he had received five nominations for candidates for the five positions on the Professional Development Committee: Anna Mae Barrett, Julie Podmore, Jan Szumski, Mike Turner and James Vanstone. Edward Holland moved to close the nominations; seconded by Violaine Arès.

Anna Mae Barrett, Julie Podmore, Jan Szumski, Mike Turner, and James Vanstone were elected unanimously.

JACFA Financial Review Committee

Edward Holland nominated Christine Jacobs; seconded by Peter Solonysznyj. Edward Holland nominated Will Richardson; seconded by Pierre Gauthier. Renée Lallier nominated Wendi Hadd; seconded by Stephen Bryce. Edward Holland moved to close the nominations; seconded by Violaine Arès.

Christine Jacobs, Will Richardson and Wendi Hadd were elected unanimously.

