

**Standing Committee on  
Francophone Affairs and Official Languages**

Annual Report 2008-2009

Presented to the Senate and the Board of Governors  
of the University of Ottawa

June 2009

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## Message from the Co-Chairs

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The Francophonie has always been integral to the University of Ottawa. In fact, they have been at the heart of the University's mission since the University was founded. Over the years, the University has instituted a wide variety of programs, services and activities for better serving its community of Francophones and Francophiles. However, the University is aware that there is always room for improvement and that it must continue to listen to all members of its community in order to identify and address their needs.

The creation of the Standing Committee on Francophone Affairs and Official Languages was one of the central recommendations of the Task Force on Programs and Services in French adopted by the Senate of the University in January 2008. It was central not only because it would ensure the presence of a formal structure to oversee the implementation of all the recommendations made, but also because it would equip the University with a permanent body that represents the different aspects of the University community and brings together a wide range of abilities and experience in Francophone Affairs and the official languages.

Throughout the last year, the Standing Committee has pursued its mandate with determination and enthusiasm. Its members have been called upon to deal with complex questions, discuss the best means of achieving the objectives set, and examine the many problems that have been placed before them. Collectively, their efforts to get to the crux of the issues presented have been distinguished by intellectual curiosity and critical thinking. We owe them a great deal of appreciation for their exemplary dedication to their task and their relevant and valuable guidance.

The following pages present the progress of the Standing Committee's work in its first year. The Committee has been a catalyst for the academic units and services that have carried out many of the activities presented in this report. We thank them for their collaboration. We are satisfied with and proud of what has been accomplished, and are ready to continue the work of advancing this vital issue in the coming year.

A preliminary analysis of the enrolment data for 2008-09 gives us cause to be optimistic. The data are encouraging. Although the number of Francophones has increased every year for the past decade, last autumn, for the first time in many years, the proportion of Francophones also increased, going from 30.3% in 2007 to 30.6% in 2008. The interesting thing is that all groups of Francophones increased both in absolute numbers and proportionally. In 2007, Francophones constituted 30.4% of undergraduates compared with 30.5% in 2008 (+175 Francophones); whereas in graduate studies, the proportion rose from 29.9% to 31.3% in the same period (+142 Francophones). Similarly, the proportion of Canadian Francophone students went from 30.8% to 30.9% (+300 Francophones), while that of foreign students went from 22.7% to 24.8% between autumn 2007 and 2008 (+17 Francophones). We must also include Francophiles, whose numbers increase constantly, primarily as a result of the immersion programs.

In short, we can see some progress, albeit modest, towards beginning to reverse the trend. We will continue to pursue our efforts in this direction.

**Robert Major**  
Vice-President Academic and Provost  
Co-Chair

**Victor Simon**  
Vice-President Resources  
Co-Chair

## Members

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The Standing Committee consists of 19 members who were elected by the Senate of the University in spring 2008. During the course of 2008-09, two members withdrew and one new member was added. One student position remains vacant.

Acosta Valle Martha Milagros	Graduate student
Arnaud, Renaud	Support staff
Benn, Keith *	Faculty, Sciences
Clément, Richard	Faculty, Humanities
Dallaire, Christine	Faculty, Humanities
Datars, Eric *	Undergraduate student
de Blois, Pierre	Member of the Board of Governors
Delic, Emir	Graduate student
Drouin, Guy	Faculty, Sciences
Dupuis, Alain	Undergraduate student
Fowler, Anthony **	Faculty, Sciences
Gallant, Jean-Sébastien	Alumnus
Gravel, Mathieu	Alumnus
Lang, George	Dean, Faculty of Arts
Lauzon, Sylvie	Associate Vice-President Academic
Major, Robert	Co-Chair, Vice-President Academic and Provost
Makaryk, Irene	Vice-Dean, FGPS
Mayrand, Isabelle	Support staff
Ouellette, Rachel	Committee Executive Secretary
Simon, Victor	Co-Chair, Vice-President Resources

\*Member left the Committee during the year

\*\*Member joined the Committee during the year

## **Mandate**

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### Status

The Committee is an advisory standing committee of the Senate. Its role is to oversee the planning and implementation of initiatives that will help the University fully assume its mission and commitment to promote bilingualism and develop French culture in Ontario. The Committee will also support the University community's development in both official languages.

### Functions

1. To ensure that the recommendations proposed in the Senate-approved development plan for programs and services in French are implemented, the results are evaluated annually, and the next five-year plan for Francophone affairs is prepared.
2. To establish, implement and coordinate a mechanism for receiving and processing complaints related to the use of official languages in the various programs and services.
3. To ensure that the Regulation on Bilingualism at the University of Ottawa is promoted, subject to follow-up, and fully and consistently applied, and to annually evaluate how the Regulation is applied in the various programs and services.
4. To design and implement an ongoing action plan for improving linguistic balance within the student population.
5. To work closely with faculties to design and implement an action plan for ensuring that mandatory courses are offered in French and that the range of elective courses offered in French is expanded.
6. To examine and support the implementation of faculties' plans designed to increase the opportunities of practical, clinical and Co-op placements in Francophone or bilingual settings.
7. To evaluate faculties' annual action plans for developing French teaching materials and recommend the allocation of appropriate resources.
8. To establish a University-Community Roundtable Forum and regularly consult its members.
9. To monitor how faculties and services control the quality and the level of bilingualism of written communication.

## Review of activities

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Of the 31 recommendations made by the Task Force on Programs and Services in French, 10 have been implemented and four require ongoing action begun in the course of the year. Work was initiated on 10 other recommendations, leaving seven that have not yet been addressed. The Standing Committee's first year was thus extremely productive.

An overview of activities in 2008-09 is presented below in terms of the Task Force Report and the progress of work to date.

### Recommendations implemented

2. *That 2/3 of the votes of the Committee on Academic Planning be required for any decision regarding the abolition of programs and services in French.*

This change was approved by the Senate on September 8, 2008. The same change was made to the Terms of Reference of the Council on Undergraduate Studies.

3. *That the University of Ottawa establish as soon as possible a Standing Committee on Francophone Affairs and Official Languages, responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating the plan for programs and services in French.*

The Standing Committee held its first meeting on April 4, 2008. The Committee has met seven times over the academic year, in April, June, October and December 2008 and February, April and May 2009.

7. *That the University of Ottawa improve the coordination of inter-institutional Francophone initiatives.*

A project office position was created in the winter of 2008 and staffed in April 2009. Specifically, the project officer's role is to coordinate activities connected with the *Apprentissage jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans* and *Destination réussite* programs intended for Francophone students in Eastern Ontario. The project officer is also responsible for working with the Faculties on the development and implementation of college articulation agreements.

13. *That the Council on Undergraduate Studies set up a task force responsible for developing an interdisciplinary program in Canadian Francophonie Studies, with particular emphasis on the Ontario Francophonie.*

The task force held its first meeting on January 20, 2009, to begin the work. To date members have met four times and work is going well. The goal is to present the program to the Council on Undergraduate Studies in November 2009 and offer the program starting in September 2010.

15. *That the University allocate resources to faculties that present an annual action plan for developing French teaching materials and setting up a linguistic revision service for professors.*

In January 2009, an initial amount of \$150,000 was allocated and a first call for proposals for the development of French teaching materials was issued to professors. Fifteen projects from seven faculties were funded.

The Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) set up a linguistic revision service for professors in the spring of 2009.

20. *That the Office of the Vice-President Resources develop and include in the contracts of all subcontractors who offer direct services to the University community a universal provision on the bilingualism requirement and the consequences of non-compliance, which may even include termination of contract.*

A first draft of this article was developed and submitted to members of the Committee in April 2008. After incorporating members' comments, it was adopted effective June 2008:

#### LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

1. The Contractor shall provide the goods and services under the contract to the University in both French and English, including but not limited to:
    - (a) all written and oral communication between the Contractor and its employees with a University community member or visitor;
    - (b) all written materials, videos, software;
    - (c) presentations; and
    - (d) signage.
  2. The Contractor warrants that the quality of the French and English provided with the goods and services is in accordance with accepted industry practice in effect at the time such goods and services are provided.
  3. All services generally provided to the community at large will comply with Article 1; however, the University may waive, at its sole discretion, the requirement to deliver the goods and services in both French and English where such goods and services are destined to a specific individual that has, or to a group of individuals that have, agreed to receive the goods and services in one language only.
  4. Where the Contractor has not complied with section 1, the University shall advise the Contractor that it is in default and shall require that the Contractor provide a corrective plan within five (5) working days from the date of the notice of default. If the Contractor does not provide the corrective plan within the time limit stipulated herein, or the corrective plan is not acceptable to the University - which acceptance is at the University's sole discretion - or if the plan is acceptable but not implemented within the specified time period, the University may terminate the Contract for default.
  5. The Contractor shall inform the University if it has had any concerns with respect to delivery of the goods and service under the Contract.
21. *That the Vice-President Academic and the Vice-President Resources design and implement a mechanism for receiving and processing complaints on services in French, that this mechanism be promoted within the University community, and that the University's Board of Governors and Senate receive regular reports on the complaints received, inquiry results and solutions proposed.*

A mechanism for comments and suggestions was developed and a link was posted on the University website in October 2008. The mechanism was publicized in *The Gazette*, on the University's home page under the heading "Information for Students", in the Communications Office's e-bulletin, and in

an article in *La Rotonde*. The publicity campaign will be repeated every September to ensure that the mechanism is well known.

As of April 30, 2009, 12 messages had been received and replies had been sent to their senders. Following all comments or suggestions feedback was collected from the individuals and services in question and corrections were made.

The following is a summary of the subjects of the comments and suggestions and of the follow-up done:

- Correspondence from the Human Resources Service in English only

The language of communication was changed on the employee's file. The Human Resources Service will, from now on, make an annual request to employees to verify the information contained in their electronic files, including preferred language of communication.

- Services in English only at Restaurant Jazzy, at the library's Second Cup counter and in the cafeteria

Those responsible for food services confirmed that the caterers are aware of their obligation to provide services in both languages at all times. They also stated that the region's hotel and restaurant industry is currently facing a shortage of bilingual workers, which affects their ability to offer services in both languages. However, they said they are actively monitoring the situation and working with the caterers to provide services in French to the Francophone users of campus food services.

- Need for academic writing help in French for students

- The Academic Writing Help Centre (AWHC) has been asked to continue promoting its service.

- We have asked the Computing and Communications Service to install the French-language grammar software *Antidote* on the computers at the Morisset Hall computer lab as a pilot project; it will be installed on a campus-wide scale after evaluating student use.

- The University's Centre for e-learning has developed a new online tool, *Visez juste en français*, to help Francophones and Francophiles improve their French.

- Poor quality of French in some University news releases

The Communications Office has corrected the errors identified in one particular news release and is now ensuring that all communications are revised by the University's Language Services prior to issue or posting on the website.

- Questioning the need to post everything on campus in both languages

One inquirer questioned the need to always announce activities in both languages, especially when the target public is Francophone. The person requested permission to waive the normal practice and post only in French in such cases. We encouraged the inquirer to post in both languages to allow both Francophones and Anglophones to have access to the information in their respective languages, while specifying that the activity would take place in French only.

- Lack of courses and active recruitment of Francophones at Sports Services

Sports Services confirmed that all promotion for all courses was in both languages whether on the website, in the promotional brochure, or in notices. However, they said that recruiting bilingual staff was a challenge in certain disciplines, particularly in martial arts. They are committed to continuing to evaluate the needs and make the necessary program changes to better serve Francophone clients.

- English-only services from Rogers Phone Service

The Computing and Communications Service has been informed of this matter and will ensure the situation is rectified.

- Internal emails sent in one language only (Co-op Programs, United Way Campaign, Faculty of Medicine)

Three people wrote to report receiving a unilingual internal email, two in English only and one in French only. The practice for internal emails is to send the communication in the language of the recipient(s). We reminded the individuals or services involved to ensure that their messages are in both languages whenever the recipients include both Francophones and Anglophones or whenever they are in doubt about a recipient's language.

- Bilingualism requirements for faculty

This comment suggested that the bilingualism requirement for professors was inconsistently applied across different Faculties. We replied that the level of bilingualism required is specified at the time of hire and that it is the responsibility of the dean of the Faculty to evaluate it. The collective agreement specifies that a dean can resort to formal tests to evaluate language skills if s/he deems it necessary. A second-language training program for teaching staff has been available at the University for over four years now. Recently the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) has also offered a language revision service for professors.

24. *That the University create a position of Coordinator for Social and Cultural Francophone Life, within the Community Life Service, responsible for developing activities in French for the internal University community and the external community.*

The position was created in the spring of 2008 and staffed the following September. The current incumbent is Marie-Soleil Pinsonnault. Since taking the position she has developed a wide range of social and cultural activities in French and established many links with student clubs and associations, as well as external associations and organizations. She has been allocated a special budget to carry out these activities.

27. *That the University promptly establish a University-Community Roundtable Forum in order to reinforce its partnerships with leaders in the Franco-Ontarian community.*

The University-Community Roundtable Forum was established in spring 2008 and has met three times, in May and November 2008 and May 2009. The minutes of the first two meetings are attached in Appendix 1. Ten Francophone organizations were initially invited to join and four more were added at the suggestion of the participants. The names of the 14 organizations invited at the May 2009 meeting can be found in Appendix 2. The members of the Standing Committee are also invited to attend the meetings.

30. *That the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost ask the Teaching and Learning Support Service to promote more broadly the opportunities for distance education in French.*

Every year the Teaching and Learning Support Service (TLSS) publishes and distributes a course catalogue of distance courses, including courses in French. The catalogue is also available online. Our inquiry confirmed that the courses in French were well subscribed. We asked the TLSS to ensure that courses in French continue to be extensively promoted.

Recommendations requiring ongoing action

5. *That University of Ottawa leaders increase their efforts to obtain the necessary funding from the provincial government so that the University can consistently cover the costs of bilingualism, increase their efforts to obtain the federal government's support in the Canada-Ontario agreement, and submit a report on these activities to the Board of Governors.*

This recommendation requires sustained action involving the funding bodies. The following are some of the steps taken by members of the University administration in the past year:

- A grant application for 2009-2014 under the Canada-Ontario Agreement was prepared in partnership with the member institutions of the Conseil des universités de la francophonie ontarienne (CUFO). The request was sent to the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in February 2009;
- A presentation was made to the Standing House of Commons Committee on Official Languages in March 2009;
- The President met with the Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Ontario Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs to discuss additional financial requirements associated with bilingualism at the University.

11. *That the University of Ottawa apply fully and consistently provision 14 of the Regulation on Bilingualism, regarding the teaching staff. This implies that the level of bilingualism required is specified at hire and that a formal mechanism for evaluating professors' second-language proficiency be implemented.*

The current process regarding language requirements for teaching personnel, at hire and at contract renewal, is governed by a collective agreement and is the responsibility of the deans. Professors who do not meet the language requirements agreed upon at hire must follow a training plan designed to bring their language skills up to the required level; training services are available to them. The Vice-President Academic authorizes and recommends hirings and contract renewals for teaching personnel and pays special attention to second-language competence when doing so.

29. *That the Office of the Vice-President University Relations increase the University's participation in regional, provincial, national and international networks on Francophonie and official languages.*

In addition to the ongoing networking activities of the Vice-President University Relations, the University of Ottawa is represented in many Francophone networks by its professors, management and staff members. Among these are the *Consortium national de formation en santé*, the *Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne*, the *Agence universitaire de la francophonie*, the *Consortium des universités de la francophonie ontarienne*, the French Language Health Services Network of Eastern Ontario and the Montfort Hospital. The International Office maintains active links with international Francophone organizations.

The recommendation was sent to the Vice-President External Relations in the spring of 2008. However, this position has been vacant since the summer of 2008, so the matter is still awaiting action.

31. *That the University of Ottawa implement the development plan for programs and services in French within the proposed deadlines and allocate the resources necessary for accomplishing this.*

As this report demonstrates, many of the recommendations have been implemented and a number of others are in progress.

### Recommendations in progress

1. *That the University of Ottawa take the necessary measures to ensure everyone is aware of and understands its Regulation on Bilingualism, add a provision for faculties in sections 2 and 3 of the regulation, establish an accountability mechanism, and annually evaluate how the regulation is implemented to ensure it is applied fully and consistently.*

Even more than the addition identified in Recommendation 1, the Regulation on Bilingualism as a whole needs to be updated, as it speaks of committees and structures that have changed since its adoption in 1974. Access to the Regulation on the University website has been facilitated by creating a tab for it in the right-hand margin of the Standing Committee on Francophone Affairs and Official Languages web page. The work is ongoing.

4. *That the University of Ottawa promptly seek independent legal advice concerning its potential designation under the terms of the French-Language Services Act and thoroughly evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of such a designation.*

In April 2009, the Office of the Vice-President Governance retained the services of Heenan Blaikie to advise the University on this matter. The Honourable Mr. Justice Michel Bastarache and Ms. Claire Vachon will provide an opinion within the next two months.

6. *That the University of Ottawa promptly prepare and implement an ongoing action plan to improve linguistic balance.*

The members of the Standing Committee have begun consideration of this matter. They agree that the University has already undertaken a number of actions in this direction, as one of the identified goals on the University's scorecard as well as in regard to recruitment and promotional activities directed to Francophone and Francophile clientele and the availability of scholarships for these clientele. In February 2009, the Committee invited the Registrar to provide an update on the situation with regard to Francophone recruitment, scholarships and enrolment. Members plan to continue this discussion over the coming year.

Here are some data on recruitment activities and undergraduate and graduate scholarships:

#### Recruitment

In 2008-09, the total annual budget for recruitment targeted at Francophones was \$550,000 (for both undergraduate and graduate levels). The activities conducted included:

- media campaign
- visits to high schools and cegeps
- high school graduation ceremonies and presentation of diplomas
- sponsorships
- tour of northern Ontario
- information evenings at Hawkesbury and Casselman
- recruitment fairs in Montreal and Quebec City
- uOttawa caravan in Montreal and Quebec City
- participation in the *Association québécoise d'information scolaire et professionnelle* (AQISEP) general meeting and seminar

### Undergraduate scholarships

In 2008-09, the University of Ottawa awarded \$28.5 million in undergraduate scholarships; of this, more than \$8,750,000 went to Francophone students. Among the scholarships available to Francophones:

- Canada's University Scholarship – Francophone high school
  - 42 \$20,000 scholarships (\$5,000 per year, renewable)
- Bourses de la francophonie
  - 200 \$1,000 scholarships (non-renewable)
- Additional bursaries for financial need (Francophones)
  - \$1,500
  - Awarded to recipients of the Bourse de la francophonie who demonstrate financial need
  - Bourses Place à la jeunesse and Bourses Fleur-de-Lys
  - Telfer School of Management
- Canada's University Scholarship – French Immersion
  - 42 \$20,000 scholarships (\$5,000 per year, renewable)
- Immersion Scholarship (admission)
  - 200 \$1,000 scholarships (non-renewable)
- Additional bursaries for financial need (immersion)
  - \$1,500
- Immersion Study Scholarship (current students)
  - 20 \$1,000 scholarships
- National competitions
  - French for the Future (essay competition), Canadian Parents for French (public-speaking competition) and the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers (video competition)

### Graduate studies scholarships

The main graduate studies scholarships are admission scholarships (internal) and excellence scholarships (external). At the Master's level, 44% of Canadian Francophones entering a program receive an admission or an excellence scholarship, whereas at the doctoral level approximately 72% of them receive one. In 2008, the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the Financial Aid and Awards Office launched a new program whose objective is to promote access to graduate studies for Francophones demonstrating financial need. Eighty-five students received these scholarships in fall 2008. In 2008-09, the total value of internal scholarships for graduate studies amounted to almost \$12 million dollars (including the matching funds from the Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program).

8. *That the Marketing and Communications Service integrate as much as possible the University's specific mandate in its advertising to both Francophone and Anglophone audiences.*

Discussions are underway with the Marketing Service and Communications Office and the Vice-President External Relations. As this position has been vacant since July 2008, progress on this recommendation has been slower than expected.

9. *That the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost work closely with faculties to prepare a five-year action plan that will ensure that by 2012 all mandatory courses are offered in French and that the range of elective courses offered in French is expanded so that students may complete their studies entirely in French in all undergraduate programs.*

In fall 2008, the Associate Vice-President Academic met with the Vice-Deans Academic of the faculties concerned to discuss this. The latter are preparing the course list, which should be available shortly.

12. *That the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies establish an action plan to be submitted to the Committee on Academic Planning, in order to improve the status of French at the graduate level by increasing the number of courses and opportunities for research in French as well as the quality and number of academic services in French.*

The Faculty's management was apprised of this recommendation and has held internal discussions on it. The Faculty requested clarifications from the members of the Standing Committee in the fall of 2008. These have been provided. We are waiting to hear back from the Faculty.

16. *That the University integrate the course leading to the Second-Language Proficiency Certificate as a credited course within all programs of study.*

At its meeting on April 16, 2009, the Council on Undergraduate Studies approved this recommendation with minor changes for clarification:

That the University integrate as a credit course the Second-Language Certification Course into programs of studies.

The recommendation must now go to the Executive Committee of the Senate and the Senate before taking effect.

19. *That the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies evaluate the relevance of partnerships with Carleton University based on students' opportunities of completing their studies in English and French.*

The Faculty's management was informed of the recommendation and has held internal discussions on the subject. We are awaiting their reply.

25. *That the University set up Francophone facilities to celebrate Francophones and bring them together.*

Participants at the University-Community Roundtable Forum were consulted on this question at the meeting held on May 29, 2008 and several suggestions were put forward. Here is the relevant extract from the Minutes:

French should be alive everywhere on campus, but it is important to provide lively, inviting places where people can interact in French, meet and get together. These places should be highly visible, clearly identified and easily accessible. A café similar to the former *Solstice* bar, with a variety of activities, Francophone performers etc., should be considered. A floor of the library could be reserved for Francophones, and the student residences could also designate spaces, if not entire floors, for Francophones.

This matter will require further follow-up.

26. *That the University of Ottawa recommend concrete measures that will emphasize the history and presence of Franco-Ontarians at the University and implement these measures by 2012.*

We consulted the participants at the University-Community Roundtable Forum about this, at the meetings of May 29 and November 20, 2008. Here are their suggestions as taken from the Minutes:

- install a *monument de la francophonie* on campus;
- place historic plaques in significant locations on campus;
- celebrate September 25 and seek provincial recognition of the date;
- partner in the activities celebrating the 75th anniversary of the AEFO (2014) – exhibition, Faculty of Education participation, etc.;
- stage an event of the Franco-Ontarien Festival on campus.

In this context, the outstanding work of the University of Ottawa's chief archivist, Michel Prévost, must be spotlighted. He has multiplied the number of activities, lectures, seminars, guided tours and other activities designed to familiarize people with the history of the University and celebrate the presence and role of French within it.

This matter will require further follow-up.

#### Recommendations not yet addressed

The following recommendations have not yet been discussed. They are on the Standing Committee's work plan for its coming meetings.

10. *That faculties increase the opportunities of practical, clinical and co-op placements in Francophone or bilingual settings and that the University provide the necessary financial support to achieve this, if needed.*
14. *That the faculties concerned examine the need and possibility of developing new programs of study in French, including those proposed.*
17. *That the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost work closely with faculties to select the programs for which bilingualism will be added as an admission or graduation requirement as of 2009.*
18. *That academic units provide all academic support services in both French and English.*
22. *That faculties, academic services, student associations, and employee associations design and implement procedures to ensure the quality control of French written communications and services generated by their respective units.*
23. *That public communications generated by all academic units and services be entirely bilingual, except in programs offered only in French or English.*
28. *That the Vice-President Academic and the Vice-President Research establish a mechanism for collaboration between academic units, research centres and chairs that play a role in the institution's outreach, and evaluate efforts undertaken in this direction.*

## **Conclusion**

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The August 2007 report of the Task Force on Programs and Services in French emphasized the importance of creating a Standing Committee on Francophone Affairs and Official Languages to ensure the prompt implementation of the report's recommendations. The Standing Committee was constituted a few months later and its first year of existence demonstrates that it provides an effective structure to support the achievement of the University's goals. The Standing Committee has functioned as a catalyst, and as a result of its work over two-thirds of the Task Force's recommendations have been addressed and either advanced or accomplished.

Encouraged by this progress, the Standing Committee will update its work plan and continue its efforts in the coming year. The implementation of certain recommendations will demand long-term sustained endeavour and the results will thus be cumulative. Some issues require the allocation of resources. Nevertheless, the members of the Standing Committee are determined to see their mandate successfully completed.

## **Appendix 1 – Minutes of the first two meetings of the University-Community Roundtable Forum**

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### **University-Community Roundtable Forum**

#### **Minutes of the first meeting May 29, 2008**

#### **Present:**

##### Community

Mariette Carrier-Fraser, Assemblée de la francophonie (AFO)

Marie-Elizabeth Brunet and Claudia Guidolin, Association des enseignants et enseignantes franco-ontariens (AEFO)

Claudette Boyer and Jean-Louis Schryburt, Association canadienne-française d'Ottawa (ACFO Ottawa inc.)

Sean McGee, Association of French Speaking Jurists of Ontario

Jean-Michel Ouimet, Association des professionnels de la chanson et de la musique (ACPM)

Noémi Paquette, Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO)

John P. Melville, Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)

Joanne Lefebvre, Regroupement des gens d'affaires (RGA)

Marie Ève Chassé, Théâtre Action

##### Standing Committee on Francophone Affairs and Official Languages

Renaud Arnaud

George Lang

Richard Clément

Sylvie Lauzon

Pierre de Blois

Robert Major, Co-Chair

Guy Drouin

Rachel Ouellette

Jean-Sébastien Gallant

Victor Simon, Co-Chair

Mathieu Gravel

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### **1. Round table discussion**

Robert Major invited the participants to introduce themselves in turn.

### **2. Background**

Robert Major and Victor Simon briefly reviewed the activities leading to the creation of the University-Community Roundtable Forum. They described the setting up of the Task Force on Programs and Services in French, whose report, submitted to the Senate of the University in September 2007, contained 31 recommendations, intended to improve the situation of French programs and services. The first recommendation to be acted on was the creation of the Standing Committee on Francophone Affairs and Official Languages, in April.

The Committee's mandate is to oversee the planning and implementation of initiatives that will help the University fully assume its mission and commitment to promote and develop French culture in Ontario. The Committee will also support the University community's development in both official languages.

One of the first recommendations that the Committee decided to act on was the creation of the University-Community Roundtable Forum, to strengthen links with the leaders of the Franco-Ontarian community (recommendation 27).

Each participant was given a copy of the Task Force report.

### 3. Purpose of the first meeting

The intention for the roundtable's first meeting was to consult the external community on the three recommendations that specifically deal with socio-cultural activities in French, the French living environment and the place of Franco-Ontarians at the University:

Recommendation 24: That the University create the position of Coordinator for Social and Cultural Francophone Life, within the Community Life Service, responsible for developing activities in French for the University community and the external community.

Recommendation 25: That the University set up Francophone facilities to celebrate Francophones and bring them together.

Recommendation 26: That the University recommend concrete measures that will promote the history and presence of Franco-Ontarians at the University and implement these measures by 2012.

To stimulate discussion, the Co-Chairs suggested the following questions:

- In what major events should the University participate in?
- How should it emphasize and celebrate Franco-Ontarian presence and pride?
- What kind of activities should it make available to nurture a Francophone living environment?
- What should a Francophone space contain?

### 4. Summary of discussions

- Coordinator for French social and cultural life – This is a key position for ensuring liaison with social and cultural organizations in the Francophone community. The person hired for this position will not only have to organize French on-campus activities, but also build bridges to French activities in the wider community. As he or she will have to create partnerships with Francophone community organizations, it was suggested that the position title be *Coordinator of Francophone Community Partnerships*. The incumbent will have to organize activities of interest to the wider community as well as to the students and staff of the University. Inviting the community to participate in on-campus activities will be as important as having a University presence in the community.
- Francophone spaces – French should flourish everywhere on campus, but it is important to provide lively, inviting places where people can interact in French, meet and get together. These places should be highly visible, clearly identified and easily accessible. A café similar to the former bar *Solstice*, with a variety of activities, Francophone performers etc., should be considered. A floor of the library could be reserved for Francophones, and the student residences could also designate spaces, if not entire floors, for Francophones.
- Events and symbols – As the Task Force report makes clear, the University already has a presence at many major Francophonie events. Further suggestions were a partnership with the Franco-Ontarian pride ambassadors (ACFO), a stronger partnership in the Elected Representatives Brunch, and a *monument de la francophonie*.
- Leadership role in the Francophone community – There were a number of suggestions for this, including: ensuring wider promotion of the University's bilingual character and the possibility of

studying in French; being more proactive in recruiting Francophone students, starting as early as elementary school, and the importance of developing links with the French school boards; creating study programs that advance the development of the Franco-Ontarian community. One participant underlined the important role the Faculty of Education could play in promoting Franco-Ontarian culture among the new teachers it trains. Another said that the links between professors, their research and the Francophone community should be strengthened; research should be relevant to Francophone needs and realities. Lastly, it was agreed that special attention to the needs of Francophone immigrants was required.

## **5. Next steps**

The Co-Chairs thanked the participants for coming and for contributing many excellent ideas. A report on the meeting will be sent to them with a brief status report on the work of the Standing Committee. The next meeting of the University-Community Roundtable Forum will be held in the fall, by which time the Coordinator of Francophone Community Partnerships will have been hired.

## University-Community Roundtable Forum

### Minutes of the second meeting November 20, 2008

#### Present:

##### Community

Mariette Carrier-Fraser, Assemblée de la francophonie (AFO)  
Marie-Elizabeth Brunet, Association des enseignants et enseignantes franco-ontariens (AEFO)  
Claudette Boyer, Association canadienne-française d'Ottawa (ACFO Ottawa inc.)  
Sean McGee, Association of French Speaking Jurists of Ontario  
François Ouimet, Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO)  
John P. Melville, Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)

##### Standing Committee on Francophone Affairs and Official Languages

Renaud Arnaud	Robert Major, Co-Chair
Richard Clément	Victor Simon, Co-Chair
Pierre de Blois	Rachel Ouellette
Sylvie Lauzon	Emir Delic
Guy Drouin	

##### Guests

Marc Duval, Community Life  
Marie-Soleil Pinsonnault, Community Life  
Michel Prévost, University Archives

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#### 1. Welcome

Robert Major welcomed the participants and invited them to introduce themselves in turn. He said that the President had hoped to attend but he had a commitment abroad. The President will attend a future meeting.

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda

Robert Major asked the participants whether they had anything to add to the proposed agenda. The agenda was adopted as read.

#### 3. Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of May 29, 2008

The Minutes of the meeting of May 29, 2008, were approved as read.

#### 4. Community Life Service

Victor Simon said that the job description for the Francophone Community Life Officer (Task Force recommendation 3) had been drawn up following the discussion at the first meeting of the roundtable forum. All the suggestions made by the participants at that meeting had been taken into account, in particular the need to strengthen ties with the outside community, to encourage students to participate in

Francophone activities off campus and to invite the community to participate in French activities on campus.

Marc Duval explained that the position had been posted during the summer and 41 applications received. He thanked Jean-Michel Ouimet and Noémie Paquette, both participants at the first meeting, for their suggestions as to the job description. Mr. Ouimet also sat on the selection committee that chose Marie-Soleil Pinsonnault. Since Ms. Pinsonnault's hiring, a steering committee and a socio-cultural activities sub-committee have been set up. A tentative program and a budget proposal have also been developed.

Marie-Soleil Pinsonnault described the three overarching objectives she had set: creating internal and external partnerships; conducting activities that would bring together Francophones and Francophiles; and preparing activities that would contribute to Francophone dynamism on campus and celebrate Franco-Ontarian culture. She drew a quick portrait of the activities already in place or in development (Flag Day, movie nights, lunch-hour music, Francophone culture week, a Facebook network, etc.).

The participants were invited to share their ideas and suggestions. A summary follows:

- As the roundtable only meets twice a year, regular and frequent activity updates for members would be a good idea; members would like to receive information between meetings, on programs, for example.
- Someone asked whether the recommendation to create a Francophone space was included in Ms. Pinsonnault's mandate, and she explained that she would be involved; it was suggested that the "University Square" project offered an opportunity to celebrate the Francophone presence.
- Someone else asked about the plan for communicating with the community organizations and the community as a whole; Ms. Pinsonnault will create a complete distribution list, which she will submit to the roundtable; announcing activities weekly in *Le Droit* was also suggested.
- A mechanism to announce French activities taking place off campus will be needed; for example, it would have been well worthwhile to have announced the recent event honouring the retirement of the Honourable Mr. Justice Jean-Marc Labrosse.
- An on-campus activity to take place on November 26 was announced: the Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française will present *Histoire des quartiers francophones d'Ottawa*.

Victor Simon thanked the participants for their suggestions and invited them to continue to share their ideas.

## **5. Standing Committee on Francophone Affairs and Official Languages progress report**

Robert Major said that the Standing Committee has 19 members, including students, professors, support staff and alumni/retired faculty. Its role is to oversee the planning and implementation of initiatives that will help the University fully assume its mission and commitment to promote and develop French culture in Ontario. The Committee will also support the University community's development in both official languages.

Since its formation, the Committee has held three meetings, in April, June and October 2008. To date, 15 of the 31 recommendations made by the Task Force on Programs and Services in French have been implemented or are on track. Robert Major briefly reviewed the Committee's progress and said that its next meeting would take place on December 5.

## **6. Emphasizing the history and presence of Franco-Ontarians at the University: discussion of concrete initiatives to implement on campus**

Michel Prévost, Chief Archivist at the University of Ottawa, made a presentation on the links that have existed between the University and the Francophone community since the University's founding in 1848. He highlighted some of the many activities that have taken place over the years to foster the vitality and

presence of the French language and culture on campus and maintain close contact with the Francophone community.

Members were invited to offer their comments and suggestions for initiatives that would further promote the history and presence of Franco-Ontarians at the University. A brief summary follows:

- put up a *monument de la francophonie* on campus;
- place historic plaques in significant locations on campus;
- celebrate September 25 and seek provincial recognition of the date;
- partner in the activities celebrating the 75th anniversary of the AEFO (2014) – exhibition, Faculty of Education participation, etc;
- stage an event of the Franco-Ontarian Festival on campus;
- a participant asked whether students of Francophone ethno-cultural origin were contacted about our activities; it was emphasized that there is always a large turn-out for French activities;
- another participant asked whether provenance data was available for the University's Francophones students – country, province, school; s/he was advised that these data are available and will be provided to the roundtable participants.

Robert Major thanked Michel Prévost for his participation. Some historical vignettes will be featured at the next meetings. He also thanked the participants for their suggestions.

## **7. Other business**

Victor Simon invited the participants to submit suggestions for the agendas of future meetings. One member suggested a presentation on research chairs that focus on aspects of the Francophone community. Another participant said that it would be interesting to discuss ways in which the University's researchers could assist community organizations and vice-versa.

## **8. Next steps**

The Co-Chairs thanked the participants for coming and for their many excellent ideas. The Minutes of the meeting will be sent to them. The next meeting of the University-Community Roundtable Forum will be organized for spring 2009 and participants will be kept in touch with developments and activities of interest to the Francophone community between meetings.

## **Appendix 2 – List of organizations invited to participate in the University-Community Roundtable Forum**

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Assemblée de la francophonie (AFO)

Association des enseignants et enseignantes franco-ontariens (AEFO)

Association canadienne-française d'Ottawa (ACFO Ottawa inc.)

Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario Prescott-Russell (ACF Prescott-Russell)

Association of French Speaking Jurists of Ontario

Association des professionnels de la chanson et de la musique (APCM)

Centre canadien de leadership en évaluation (CLÉ)

Franco-Ontarian Youth Federation (Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO)

Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)

Radio communautaire francophone d'Ottawa

Regroupement des gens d'affaires (RGA)

French Language Health Services Network of Eastern Ontario

Société franco-ontarienne d'histoire et de généalogie

Théâtre Action