

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION  
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE**

Friday, April 14, 2023, at 2 p.m.  
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room  
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus  
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting Members:

Graham Carr (Chair)	Larry Deck	David Morris
Leslie Barker	Effrosyni Diamantoudi	Catherine Mulligan
Matthew Barker (via Zoom)	(via Zoom)	Xavier Ottenwælder
Sabine Bergler	Mary Esteve (via Zoom)	Ian Rakita
Dominique Bérubé	Mehdi Farashahi	Pat Riva (via Zoom)
Beverley Best	Annie Gérin	Pascale Sicotte
Catherine Bolton	Marina Ghali	Sofiane Tahar
Sally Cooke (via Zoom)	Fawaz Halloum	Kelly Thompson
Anne-Marie Croteau	Steve Henle	Craig Townsend
Fabienne Cyrius	Asli Isaaq	Guylaine Vaillancourt
Alexandra Dawson	Jordan Jerome-Pitre	Deeva Wazir (via Zoom)
(via Zoom)	Stefanie Tsi-Ying Lamothe	Anne Whitelaw
Selvadurai Dayanandan	Christopher Moore	Radu Grigore Zmeureanu
Mourad Debbabi	Peter Morden (via Zoom)	

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Paul Chesser, Stéphanie de Celles, Michael Di Grappa, Isabel Dunnigan, Nadia Hardy, Frederica Jacobs, Émilie Martel (via Zoom)

Also attending: William Cheaib, Sandra Gabriele, Lisa Ostiguy (via Zoom)

ABSENT

Voting members:

Nagendra S.A. Appala	Moshe Lander	Mireille Paquet
Adam Bouguila	Michael Lecchino	Thenmozhi Rajan
William Dickson	Sofia Lipari-Couture	Nachiketh R. Ravindra
Rebecca Kanida	Fuzhan Nasiri	Ahmadou Sakho

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette, Tom Hughes, Stefana Nita

## 1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

### 1.1 Approval of the Agenda

*R-2023-3-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

### 1.2 Adoption of March 17, 2023 Minutes

*R-2023-3-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of March 17, 2023 be adopted.*

## 2. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

There was no business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.

## 3. President's Remarks

The President's remarks are summarized as follows:

- G. Carr began by congratulating the Stingers women's ice hockey team for winning silver in the U Sports championship game. He noted their incredible accomplishment as defending champions to get to the gold medal match.
- Two weeks ago, there was an announcement of a gift of \$1,400,000.00 over five years from Scotia Bank designed to support the academic success of Indigenous students, and also of international students in business. In the first case, the funding will create a Bridging Program by making the university experience more responsive to the diverse realities of Indigenous students with a view to better supporting their success. The other portion of the gift will support the C-Rise program in the John Molson School of Business, which is designed to better prepare international students for graduation and transition into the workforce upon graduation.
- The University's Muthukumaran Packirisamy was chosen to receive the Robert W. Angus Medal from the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering in recognition of outstanding contributions to mechanical engineering practice in Canada. This comes on the heels of his invention of Direct Sound printing being named a top scientific breakthrough of 2022 by *Québec Science*.
- G. Carr spoke about an event held earlier today which was hosted by the *Chambre de commerce du Montréal métropolitain*, where Concordia announced the first tangible step to achieve campus decarbonization by 2040 with the launch of Plan/NET-

ZERØ. The major source of gas emissions at the University are buildings (40%+), and this plan will focus not just on decarbonizing them, but on integrating energy use systems on each campus.

- This new initiative will look at the 80 buildings across 2 neighborhoods and on both University campuses and will work towards a living lab concept. The initiative will welcome collaborators from all sectors, including other universities. This aims to be a fantastic opportunity not just for research but for training, internships and the development of other academic programs. The plan aligns with the University's commitment to *Partenariat Climat Montréal*.
- This announcement brings to mind the commitment made by the Concordia Foundation in November 2019, to fully divest from coal, gas and oil, double its impact investing to 10% and convert the full portfolio to 100% sustainable investment. As of April 2023, the Foundation is on track to meet its commitments by the target date of 2025, having reduced its oil, gas, and coal investments to approximately 1% of the total portfolio and begun to increase its share in impact investing. He noted that no other university in Canada can make such a claim, and this only exemplifies that the University intends to honour the commitments that it is making as part of its Sustainability Action Plan.
- Finally, as the semester comes to a close, G. Carr wished everyone all the best for final exams and assignments.

#### 4. **Academic update** (Document US-2023-3-D3)

A. Whitelaw announced the appointment of the new Dean, School of Health, Dr. Timothy Dye. She noted that Dr. Dye is a perfect fit as the inaugural dean, with an extraordinary research portfolio that complements the interdisciplinary work that will be undertaken by the various hubs in the School of Health. The President congratulated A. Whitelaw, D. Bérubé and the members of the selection committee for choosing a great candidate. A. Whitelaw informed Senate that the University will be welcoming Dr. Dye on August 15, 2023.

#### CONSENT

#### 5. **Tribunal Pool/Committee Nominations** (Document US-2023-3-D4)

*R-2023-3-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Tribunal Pool and Committee appointments be approved.*

#### 6. **Committee report** (Document US-2023-3-D5)

This report was provided for information purposes only.

#### 7. **Revisions to the Policy on the Ethical Use of Animals in Research and Teaching (VPRGS-13)** (Document US-2023-3-D6)

*R-2023-3-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, following the recommendation of the Senate Research Committee, Senate approve the revisions to the Policy on the Ethical Use of Animals in Research and Training (VPRGS-13), as detailed in the attached Document US-2023-3-D6.*

## **REGULAR**

### **8. Strategic Research Plan (Document US-2023-3-D7)**

D. Bérubé introduced the item. The Senate Research Committee met on March 24, 2023 and unanimously approved the recommendation for the approval of the Strategic Research Plan by Senate. D. Bérubé explained that the version presented included now feedback that was received as part of the consultation process across the institution.

The plan aims to distinguish Concordia University among Canadian and international universities and identify key strategic areas as well as underlying principles that characterize our research ecosystem.

There was general very positive feedback from the community about the choice to organize strategic themes by challenges rather than by sectors and disciplines, allowing to showcase interdisciplinarity. She also reported that this version benefitted greatly from the feedback received on scientific terminology, allowing to better represent the complexity and subtleties of the different research approaches and areas.

D. Bérubé reported on the discussions during the Senate Research Committee and some concerns that were shared about such document, its use and its capacity to reflect inclusively the community. While all understood the importance of making choices as well as the limitation of length of the document, it was still considered that some sectors could not be as well represented. Some researchers considered that more attention should be given to the importance and presence of the humanities including the historical perspective in research and that the 'challenges' approach may look at research only through an applied prism. Nevertheless, all members of the committee felt that the document reflected well the institution, its strengths and its values and supported its final approval.

*R-2023-3-9 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Senate approve and adopt the Strategic Research Plan.*

### **9. Question period**

There were no questions during question period.

### **10. Other business**

There was no other business to bring before the Open Session.

### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

*K. Singh*  
Karan Singh  
Secretary of Senate