

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

Friday, November 3, 2023,
following the Closed Session of Senate
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) SGW Campus
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting members:

Graham Carr (Chair)	Selvadurai Dayanandan	Christopher Moore
Angelica Antonakopoulos	(zoom)	David Morris (left 2:33 p.m.)
Leslie Barker	Mourad Debbabi	Catherine Mulligan
Matthew Barker	Larry Deck	Xavier Ottenwaelder
Sabine Bergler	Effrosyni Diamantoudi	Robert Padmore
Dominique Bérubé	Mehdi Farashahi (zoom)	Deep Patel
Beverley Best	Ariela Freedman	Véronique Pepin (zoom)
Theresa Bianco	Mariana Ghali	Mahshid Rahbari
Amy Buckland	Steve Henle	Rosemary Reilly
Alexandrah Cardona	Arnav Ishaan (zoom)	Pascale Sicotte
Sally Cooke	Charles Rohinth Jospheh	Ahmed Soliman
Roy Cross	Mehdi Kharazmi	Sofiène Tahar
Anne-Marie Croteau	Raghulkanna Lakshmanan	Craig Townsend
Fabienne Cyrius (zoom)	Michael Lecchino	Roberto Viereck-Salinas
Niraj Dayanandan	Harley Martin (zoom)	Anne Whitelaw
		Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Paul Chesser, Denis Cossette, Stéphanie de Celles, Michael Di Grappa (zoom), Nadia Hardy, Frederica Jacobs, Stefana Nita, Carlos Santana, Olivia Ward

Also attending: Caroline Baril, William Cheaib

ABSENT

Voting members:

Annie Gérin
Bonnie Harnden

Dany-Ariel Ishimwe
Moshe Lander

Mireille Paquet
Ian Rakita
Melissa Spiridigliozzi

Non-voting members: Isabel Dunnigan

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2023-6-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of September 29, 2023, Minutes

R-2023-6-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 29, 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

- Dr. Carr spoke about the challenges universities were facing to manage life on campuses in the wake of the violence underway in the Middle East. He spoke to the expectations that existed for the University to declare a political position. He restated the University's role as a place for the peaceful exchange of ideas, and underlined that diversity is intrinsic to who Concordia is and that it is not the role of the University to editorialize on the topics of the day. The University must speak to the ensemble of the community with compassion for all members of the community – a difficult feat when the views are so polarizing. He affirmed that the University's core responsibility is to do the utmost to ensure that exchanges on campus are peaceful and respectful, and to provide support to students, faculty and staff to ensure that everyone feels safe on campus.
- He went on to note how it was important to recognize the diversity in the University community and Concordia's history. His message to all Senators was to remember Concordia's role and responsibility as an academic institution, a place of teaching

and learning and that of the respectful exchange of ideas. The University cannot be turned into a mere staging ground for conflict even on matters of global significance.

- He appealed that, as an important academic governance body within the University, Senate must lead in the civil, respectful and evidence-informed exchange of ideas. He encouraged faculty members, who are well versed in dealing with similar complex issues, to lead in their communities. He underlined the need to be even more sensitive and mindful of the tone in which we express our views and opinions. Having difficult conversations is challenging enough, without making them even seem intolerant of other positions.
- He noted that some community members--students, staff and faculty--do not feel that the University is a safe space and instead feel intimidated. Concordia cannot be proud of this and everyone in the University community must work together to address and reverse such an environment. Concordia is an organization that expects that everyone in its community abide by a code of good behaviour, that we exercise our academic freedom without threat or infringing on others' equal rights. Unfortunately, in a context where tensions are running high, there may be voices that will cross that line. However, the University is not a place for violent speech or action and therefore individuals who feel victimized by words and actions should seek recourse through the procedures that the University has in place.
- Senate is an illustration of how the University benefits from collegial governance but we should all take a step back and reflect on what collegial means.
- Dr. Carr restated that the University is a place of diversity of people, of opinion and of cultures. That diversity must be preserved, valued and respected. Dr. Carr and the University team are trying to be as measured as possible in an extremely difficult moment, but there is a shared responsibility to keep calm on campus, to ensure that discourse is respectful, and that people are talking and listening to each other.
- Dr. Carr then went on to address the Québec government's recent announcement that out-of-province tuition fees would double and the funding formula for international students would be modified. These changes will have a significant impact on the University and its revenues, curtailing diversity and resulting in a significant decline in enrolment. Although these changes have been described as having an impact on universities across the sector, they will disproportionately affect Bishops, McGill, Concordia.
- The policy will also have an impact on the Montreal brand as one of the world's great university cities and to the image of Québec externally as a welcoming place eager to recruit and retain top talent to nurture the economy of the future.
- Since the government's announcement, Dr. Carr has met with the Minister of Higher Education, Pascale Déry, who is so far unyielding on this decision. Assessment and strategizing with his executive team are ongoing.

- Dr. Carr underlined the amazing work that the team at University Communications Services has done since the announcement, with a big thank you to Philippe Beauregard, Vannina Maestracci, Pascal Lebel, and William Cheaib for all their efforts. He then thanked community members who have mobilized in response to the government's announcement, adding that he was pleased about the support from Mayor Valerie Plante's office, the head of BMO Québec, and the leaders of the five francophone charter universities (Université de Montréal, Université Laval, Université de Sherbrooke, HEC Montréal and Polytechnique Montréal), who have all come out publicly against the policy.
- Dr. Carr thanked everyone for their support. He also noted that Premier Legault had invited the heads of the anglophone universities to meet with him and he was hopeful that the Premier and the government would be in listening mode.

A round of applause for Dr. Carr's remarks followed.

4. Academic update (Document US-2023-6-D2)

A. Whitelaw noted that there was nothing to add to the written Academic Update that had been circulated with the meeting documentation.

CONSENT

5. Tribunal Pool/Committee Nominations (Document US-2023-6-D3)

R-2023-6-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Tribunal Pool and Committee appointments be approved.

6. Distinguished Research Professor Award guidelines (Document US-2023-6-D4)

R-2023-6-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, the revisions to the Distinguished Research Professor Award, outlined in Document US-2023-6-D4 be approved.

7. Mandate and Memberships of Senate Standing Committees
(Document US-2023-6-D5)

R-2023-6-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Special Graduation Awards Committee, Senate approve the modifications to the Membership and Functions of Standing Committee of Senate related to the Special Graduation Awards Committee.

REGULAR

8. Recognition of new research unit - CICIEM (Document US-2023-6-D6)

D. Bérubé introduced the item and spoke of the new unit was aimed to provide expanded research opportunities to the research community.

R-2023-6-9 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Senate Research Committee, Senate approve the recognition of the Centre for Innovation in Construction and Infrastructure Engineering and Management ("CICIEM") as a research unit.

9. Question period

A couple of Senators thanked the President for his continued leadership in this time of crises for the University. Dr. Carr expressed thanks and commended the excellent efforts and collaboration of his team and his gratefulness to Senate.

10. Other business

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

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of Senate