

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.
in Room GM 410 (Board of Governors Meeting Room)
located on the 4th floor of the Guy-Metro Building,
1550 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West
on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Members: Mr. Norman Hébert jr., *Chair*, Mr. Firas Al Hammoud, Dr. Shimon Amir, Ms. Françoise Bertrand, Dr. Sandra Betton, Me Antoinette Bozac, Me Francesco Ciampini, Dr. Daniel Cross, Mr. Jean-Pierre Desrosiers, Ms. Mélanie La Couture, Me John Lemieux, Dr. William Lynch, Mr. Michael Novak, Ms. Frédérica Martin, Mr. Georges Paulez, Prof. Maria Peluso, Mr. Benjamin Prunty, Ms. Suzanne Sauvage, Prof. Alan Shepard, *President and Vice-Chancellor*, Ms. Annie Tobias

Alternate Member: Ms. Melanie Hotchkiss

Also attending: Mr. Philippe Beauregard, Mr. William Cheaib, Mr. Roger Côté, Me Bram Freedman, Mr. Gerry Hughes (*for item 7*), Mr. Patrick Kelley, Dr. Lisa Ostiguy, Ms. Kristen Robillard (*for item 6*)

ABSENT

Members: Mr. Jeff Bicher, Ms. Hélène Fortin, Dr. Norman Ingram, Ms. Gina P. Cody, Me Marie-José Nadeau

Non-voting Observer: Mr. Jonathan Wener, *Chancellor*

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Hébert called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. He reminded Governors to complete and return the board evaluation questionnaire and also confirmed that an additional Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2015, at 4 p.m., followed by a cocktail.

1.1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2015-2-1 *That the Agenda be approved.*

CONSENT2. Adoption of February 11, 2015 Minutes

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2015-2-2 *That the Minutes of the meeting of the Open Session of February 11, 2015 be approved.*

3. Honorary Degree and Convocation Committee report (Document BG-2015-2-D1)

This report was provided for information purposes.

REGULAR4. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

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

5. President's report (Document BG-2015-2-D2)

The President conveyed some highlights of his written report as follows:

- News from the government is expected in early May regarding the 2015/2016 budget orientations for universities.
- Infrastructure funding for higher education and research under the *Plan québécois des infrastructures 2015-2025* has been increased by 2%.
- A team of Concordia alumni, coached by District 3, received funding from the Y Combinator, the world's biggest business accelerator.
- Congratulations to Paul Shrivastava, JMSB's David O'Brien Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Enterprise, who was appointed in February as the executive director of Future Earth.

Referring to an email sent to Governors earlier today regarding the temporary occupation of the lobby and 8th floor of the GM building, Prof. Shepard was pleased that the occupation had been done in a peaceful and respectful manner. The stated cause for the occupation was a protest against austerity in general, aggravated by the fact that the University has accepted the government's budget cuts and upset feelings about recent events at UQAM. He noted that he was not keen on commenting on the actions of other Presidents, and that he has reiterated his disappointment about the cuts and continues to advocate for the University and lobby the government at every opportunity. He thanked his executive team for their calm reaction and noted that most student groups are no longer on strike.

Pursuant to a question about the internal process that led to close part of the GM building and the media response, the President replied that this decision was made, further to consultation with his executive team, as a preventive measure to ensure the safety and comfort of the staff working in the administrative offices of the 8th floor as well as some

other services on other floors. While acknowledging that the protest was peaceful, nonetheless some employees were alarmed, and not knowing how long the staff would be trapped in their offices without access to washrooms and food, it was decided to send them home. The same response was provided by the University spokesperson, Ms. Chris Mota, to the media.

Mr. Prunty expressed his appreciation of the University's overall response and its validation of the student strike while also urging that it not play into the vilification of students and not use events which have unfolded at other universities against the Concordia students.

6. Annual report from the Ombuds Office (Document BG-2015-2-D3)

Ms. Kristen Robillard, Ombudsperson, presented a summary of the 2013/2014 annual report. She updated the Board on the progress of the implementation of recommendations from previous annual reports. She also provided some statistical highlights and conveyed the three recommendations. Following her update, Ms. Robillard responded to comments and questions from Governors.

7. Presentation on the Co-op program (Document BG-2015-2-D4)

Mr. Gerry Hughes, the Director of the Institute for Co-operative Education, began his presentation by showing a short video of students' testimonials regarding their co-op experience.

He explained that co-operative programs are those that alternate periods of academic study with periods of work experience. He conveyed the benefits of co-op for students, which include integrating work experience with academic learning, providing opportunities to earn revenue, clarifying their career choices and expanding their networks as well as enhancing their overall confidence and independence.

Currently, co-op programs are offered by 55 Canadian universities, offering about 1,100 programs in which over 80,000 students are enrolled. In Quebec, Concordia and Université de Sherbrooke offer the largest co-op programs, with ÉTS having a strong presence in engineering and computer science. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the co-op operations, the first co-op program at Concordia having been founded in the Faculty of Arts and Science in 1980. Today each Faculty has co-op programs, the newest ones having been established in 2013. Enrolments in the co-op program have grown about 35% during the last three years.

Mr. Hughes provided the details of the current co-op programs at Concordia. He conveyed the strategic directions and highlighted the work term parameters, student performance as well as the benefits for employers to participate in the co-op program.

Mr. Hughes concluded his presentation by explaining how to hire a co-op student and invited Governors to visit the co-op [website](#). A discussion ensued, during which Mr. Hughes responded to comments and questions from Governors.

8. Collection of undergraduate student fee levies (Document BG-2015-2-D5)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2015-2-3 CSU operating fee (formerly referred to as the Concordia Student Union fee or general operations fee)

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect an increased fee levy of \$1.97 per credit (increase of \$0.22 per credit from \$1.75 per credit) from all undergraduate students to support the CSU operating fee, annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2015 term (2015/2), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.

R-2015-2-4 CSU Clubs (formerly referred to as the CSU Non-Academic Clubs and Associations)

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a fee levy of \$0.25 per credit from all undergraduate students to support the CSU Clubs, annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2015 term (2015/2), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.

R-2015-2-5 Student Space, Accessible Education & Legal Contingency Fund (SSAELC) (formerly referred to as the Student Space, Access to Education & Legal Contingency Fund)

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a decreased fee levy of \$1.00 per credit (decrease of \$0.50 per credit from \$1.50 per credit) from all undergraduate students to support the Student Space, Accessible Education & Legal Contingency Fund (SSAELC), annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2015 term (2015/2), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.

R-2015-2-6 CSU Advocacy Center

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a decreased fee levy of \$0.21 per credit (decrease of \$0.09 per credit from \$0.30 per credit) from all undergraduate students to support the CSU Advocacy Center, annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2015 term (2015/2), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.

R-2015-2-7 CSU Housing and Job Bank (HOJO)

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a fee levy of \$0.20 per credit from all undergraduate students to support the CSU Housing and Job Bank (HOJO), annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2015 term (2015/2), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.

R-2015-2-8 CSU Legal Information Clinic (LIC)

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a fee levy of \$0.17 per credit from all undergraduate students to support the CSU Legal Information Clinic (LIC), annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2015 term (2015/2), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.

9. Update on strategic direction process

The President apprised the Board that the nine draft strategic priorities will be presented to Senate at its upcoming meeting and will be posted on the University website for comments by the community. The final document will be presented for the Board's approval at the June 11 meeting.

Prof. Shepard provided an overview of the strategic directions process, comprised of preliminary discussions at Senate and the Board of Governors in the Fall 2014, and a two-phase public process, consisting in strategic visioning from January to June 2015, and action planning at the department and unit levels from September to December 2015.

Phase One included a very successful speaker series, the establishment of the Strategic Directions Advisory Committee, working groups and idea cafés, brainstorming sessions at Senate and at the Board retreat, consultations with department chairs, senior managers and student associations, polling students. The process was widely publicize via a robust website, digital screens across the University, internal publications, newspaper ads regarding the speak series and Twitter.

10. Other business

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

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors