

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, September 16, 2016, at 2 p.m.
in the John Varjan Amphitheatre
(Room MB 2.210), on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Mudasser Akbar; Ali Akgunduz; Amir Asif; Guylaine Beaudry; Patrick Blair; Patrice Blais; Stéphane Brutus; Ian Campbell; Graham Carr; Frank Crooks; Effrosyni Diamantoudi; Christine DeWolf; Jill Didur; Rebecca Duclos; Marcie Frank; Mariana Frank; Jana Ghalayini; Vince Graziano; Rudy Grow; Brigitte Jaumard; Danica Jojich; Esmael Kariminezhad; Rahul Kumar; Armani Martel; Shahbaz Masood; David Morris; Monica Mulrennan; Lorraine Oades; Virginia Penhune; Harald Proppe; André Roy; Sophia Sahrane; Daniel Salée; Yousef Shayan; Johanne Sloan; Robert Soroka; Ted Stathopoulos; Sofiène Tahar; Jean-Philippe Warren; Paula Wood-Adams

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beauregard; Isabel Dunnigan; Bram Freedman; Frederica Jacobs; Rachel Marion; Lisa Ostiguy; Daniel Therrien

ABSENT

Voting members: Philippe Caignon; Daniel Cross; Charles Draimin; Lea Katsanis

Non-voting members: Roger Côté; Denis Cossette

1. **Call to order**

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

1.1 **Approval of Agenda**

R-2016-6-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

1.2 **Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 13, 2016**

R-2016-6-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 13, 2016 be approved.*

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. Senate orientation (Document US-2016-6-D1)

Me Jacobs underlined that four critical documents were included in the orientation documentation which Senators should review:

- Code of ethics and conduct applicable to members of Senate and members of committees established by Senate ([US-1](#))
- Guidelines pertaining to the recording and broadcasting of senate meetings ([US-2](#))
- An extract from Concordia's By-Laws regarding [Membership, meetings, functions and powers of Senate](#)
- [Summary of procedures at Senate meetings and rules of order](#)

While all of the information is important and relevant, she presented the key take-aways with respect to Senators understanding their role and duties, the importance of preserving confidentiality and familiarizing themselves with the meeting procedures so that Senate can, as a group, adhere to good meeting practices.

She urged Senators to read the [Senator's Handbook](#) which is posted on the Senate website and to contact Ms. Tessier for any questions in relation to the operations of Senate.

4. President's remarks

Prof. Shepard's remarks are summarized as follows:

- ⇒ The year is off to a great start with over 9,000 new students on campus.
- ⇒ He encouraged all Senators to participate in the Shuffle on September 23, a 6.5 km walk between both campuses to raise money for student scholarships and bursaries
- ⇒ Homecoming will be held between September 22 and 25.
- ⇒ The recommendation of the Provost Search Committee will be presented at the upcoming Board meeting.
- ⇒ Information sessions are being held with respect to the Voluntary Retirement Program. The uptake should be known towards the end of October.
- ⇒ The recent article in *La Presse* regarding the key loggers refers to incidents which occurred last March in the public service areas of the Library. The University continues to monitor the situation. A great deal of resources and efforts are being dedicated to making those areas safe.
- ⇒ The Canada China International Film Festival is being held until September 19, with several activities being held in the EV building.
- ⇒ The District 3 Innovation Center (D3) was named the Quebec regional "Entrepreneur Support" winner at the 2016 Startup Canada Awards.
- ⇒ Damon Matthews has been inducted into the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

- ⇒ Several gifts have been received for academic initiatives, totaling approximately \$3 million.
- ⇒ Former Concordia Stinger Bianca Farella won a bronze medal at the Rio Olympics as part of the Canadian women's rugby team.

5. Academic update (Document US-2016-6-D2)

Dr. Carr summarized the highlights of his written report.

CONSENT

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2016-6-D3)

R-2016-6-3 *That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2016-6-D3 (Revised), be approved.*

7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2016-6-D4)

7.1 Graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business (Document US-2016-6-D5 to D7)

R-2016-6-4 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Documents US-2016-6-D5 to D7, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2016-6-D4.*

REGULAR

8. The year ahead

Prof. Shepard gave a brief overview of the shared priorities which Dr. Carr will expand upon during the strategic directions update. He provided some examples on how this year's focus will be on continuing to support the academic sector, continuing to support student success, planning the comprehensive campaign and improving the University's reputation locally and internationally. He emphasized the importance he places on running the University in a transparent and honorable way.

At the President's invitation, Dean Brutus and Prof. Sandra Betton spoke of the revision process and the substantial curriculum changes brought to the MBA program, approved earlier under the Consent Agenda.

9. Update on strategic directions

For the benefit of new Senators, Dr. Carr quickly retraced the strategic directions path over the past 18 months, which included a speaker series, idea cafés, organized idea groups to do some initial scanning, student surveys, etc., and resulted in an articulation of nine strategic directions for Concordia.

Over the course of last academic year, four of the nine directions were identified as cross-institutional strategies. In addition, Faculties and major units conducted their own strategic planning exercises. At the May Senate meeting, the Deans and University Librarian presented their unit priorities. Additionally, Peter Stoett presented on strategies and options for Concordia with respect to sustainability.

The aggregate results of this planning work were captured in a game plan that was reviewed at Senate last Spring. Developing the game plan involved identifying shared academic priorities and coming to an agreement about “first moves”. Over the course of the Summer, the work has continued to refine and prioritize those first moves.

Dr. Carr provided the highlights of some of the initiatives flowing from the nine shared academic priorities for 2016/2017 that deserve particular emphasis. Those nine priorities are:

- Research support
- Institute and think tank formation
- Curriculum transformation
- Experiential learning opportunities
- Exchange and engagement opportunities
- Student mobility initiatives
- Recruitment and retention initiatives
- Indigenous strategy
- Staff professional development

Dr. Carr concluded his presentation by apprising Senate that other important projects and initiatives, such as a Horizon Postdoctoral Program, a proposal to create a Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering and the Concordia University Press, are underway in the Faculties or academic units, and which will also advance our strategic directions.

10. Question period

No questions were asked.

11. Other business

Prof. Stathopoulos apprised Senate of the continuous efforts that CUFA is expending to campaign for the release of Professor Emerita Homa Hoodfar, jailed in Iran during a personal visit while conducting research, noting the support received from most faculty associations across the country. While they are striving for a positive result, he emphasized that CUFA is careful that their efforts do not cause a contrary result. He thanked the President for his support in this matter.

Senators were also apprised of other efforts that are being deployed to secure Prof. Hoodfar’s release, including a public demonstration on September 21 and sending online letters to the Canadian parliament.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate