

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, April 21, 2017, at 2 p.m.
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Mudasser Akbar; Ali Akgunduz; Patrick Blair; Patrice Blais; Philippe Caignon; Graham Carr; Frank Crooks; Daniel Cross; Christine DeWolf; Jill Didur; Charles Draimin; Mariana Frank; Marcie Frank; Vince Graziano; Rudy Grow; Brigitte Jaumard; George Kanaan (*Acting on behalf of Stéphane Brutus*); Esmaeel Kariminezhad; Marion Miller; Alexander Milton; David Morris; Monica Mulrennan; Lorraine Oades; Justin Powlowski; Harald Proppe; Omar Riaz; André Roy; Sophia Sahrane; Daniel Salée; Francesca Scala; Yousef Shayan; Robert Soroka; Ali Sherra; Christopher Trueman (*Acting on behalf of Amir Asif*); Paula Wood-Adams

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beauregard; Denis Cossette; Roger Côté; Isabel Dunnigan; Emmet Henchey; Frederica Jacobs; Lisa Ostiguy; Daniel Therrien

ABSENT

Voting members: Guylaine Beaudry; Ian Campbell; Effrosyni Diamantoudi; Rebecca Duclos; Jana Ghalayini; Shannon Gittens-Yahoba; Eliza Griffiths; Rahul Kumar; Lea Katsanis; Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis; Shahbaz Masood; Virginia Penhune; John Potvin; Ted Stathopoulos; Sofiène Tahar; Steven Tutino; Jean-Philippe Warren

Non-voting members: Bram Freedman

1. **Call to order**

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

1.1 **Approval of Agenda**

R-2017-3-1 *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 March 17, 2017

R-2017-3-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of March 17, 2017 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. President's remarks

Prof. Shepard's remarks are summarized as follows:

- Concordia has once again ranked among the top universities under 50 years old, as reported in the Time Higher Education Young University Rankings.
- For the second year in a row, Concordia has been named one of Montreal's top employers.
- Concordia continues to achieve strong research grant results, reflecting efforts to foster a stronger research grant culture. At the President's invitation, Interim VPRGS Justin Powlowski provided some highlights in competitions for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Grants.
- He congratulated:
 - Prof. Ann English, who has received the *2017 Clara Benson Award*, granted by the Canadian Society for Chemistry in recognition of her distinguished contribution to the field in Canada;
 - Retired Professor Lucie Lequin, who has been named a *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes académiques*;
 - Fellow Senator Daniel Cross, whose film, *I Am the Blues*, won two Canadian Screen Awards in March for Best Feature Length Documentary and Best Cinematography in a Feature Length Documentary.
- He apprised Senators that efforts are being deployed to help Concordia student Bissan Eid to return to Canada.

4. Report of Standing Committees

4.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2017-3-D1)

4.2 Finance (Document US-2017-3-D2)

4.3 Research (Document US-2017-3-D3)

Senators had no questions in connection with this report which is provided for information.

5. Academic update (Document US-2017-3-D4)

In addition to highlighting some information provided in his written update, Dr. Carr also drew Senate's attention to the achievements of some graduate students, outlined in his report, and thanked Dean Wood-Adams and her team for their work in mentoring graduate students to participate in competitions.

CONSENT

6. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2017-3-D5)

6.1 Undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

6.1.1 Department of English (Document US-2017-3-D6)

6.1.2 Department of Religions and Cultures (Document US-2017-3-D7)

6.1.3 Simone de Beauvoir Institute (Document US-2017-3-D8)

R-2017-3-3 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-3-D6 to D8, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-3-D5.*

6.2 Undergraduate curriculum changes - Institute for Co-operative Education (Document US-2017-3-D9)

R-2017-3-4 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Institute for Co-operative Education, outlined in Document US-2017-3-D9, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-3-D5.*

6.3 Graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science and Faculty of Fine Arts - Humanities (Document US-2017-3-D10)

R-2017-3-5 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science and Faculty of Fine Arts, outlined in Document US-2017-3-D10, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-3-D5.*

6.4 Graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

6.4.1 Department of Journalism (Documents US-2017-3-D11 and D12)

6.4.2 Department of Religions and Cultures (Document US-2017-3-D13)

6.4.3 Department of Sociology and Anthropology (US-2017-3-D14)

R-2017-3-6 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-3-D11 to D14, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-3-D5.*

6.5 Graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

6.5.1 Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering (Document US-2017-3-D17)

6.5.2 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2017-3-D18)

R-2017-3-7 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-3-D17 and D18, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-3-D5.*

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2017-3-D5)

7.1 Graduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science - Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering

7.1.1 Master of /Magisteriate in Engineering (Environmental Engineering) (Document US-2017-3-D15)

Dean Wood-Adams apprised Senators that this new program stems from the reorganization of an existing option, noting that granting a distinct degree will more accurately reflect the area of training.

Dr. Maria Elektorowicz conveyed the rationale for establishing the Master of Engineering (Environmental Engineering), stating that the proposed program will better prepare students to work for various environmental technology industries, municipalities and consulting firms.

7.1.2 Master of /Magisteriate in Engineering (Construction Engineering and Management) (Document US-2017-3-D16)

Dean Wood-Adams said that this new program is also the result of a reformulation of an existing option.

Dr. Osama Moselhi conveyed the rationale for the Master of Engineering (Construction Engineering and Management), noting that this is the most popular graduate program in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering. It will address the demand of graduate students for training to obtain the knowledge and skills required in the construction industry.

R-2017-3-8 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-3-D15 and D16, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-3-D5.*

7.2 Graduate curriculum changes - John Molson School of Business - Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship (Document US-2017-3-D19)

Dean Wood-Adams introduced this new initiative whose objective is to provide non-business graduates the required skills and knowledge to start their own micro-enterprise such as an artist-run studio, design firm or professional practice.

Dr. Anne Beaudry explained that this offering, unique to Canada, was designed in response to student demand for a short and focused program in entrepreneurship. It is geared toward graduates from Fine Arts, Engineering and Arts and Science.

R-2017-3-9 That the graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Document US-2017-3-D19, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-3-D5.

8. Annual report of the Ombuds Office (Document US-2017-3-D20)

Ombudsperson Amy Fish presented the highlights of the annual report, including some key statistics. She apprised Senators that a review of all the recommendations of prior reports had been conducted, all of which had been addressed.

To illustrate the type of concerns and issues the Ombuds Office deals with on a regular basis, Ms. Fish provided two examples, one typical case involving an undergraduate student and one atypical case involving a graduate student, both having positive outcomes. Following her presentation, Ms. Fish responded to questions of clarification.

9. Follow-up from Registrar regarding Reading Week

As a follow-up from a request made at the October 2016 Senate meeting, the University Registrar, Daniel Therrien, explained how dates are established for Reading Week. Noting that the decision should be driven by pedagogical concerns, he added that Reading Week should come after a minimum of six weeks of classes and allow for sufficient time to accommodate DISC decisions by students.

During the course of his research, he received positive feedback for delaying Reading Week by one week. However, this change will not be possible to implement for the 2017/2018 academic year, since the calendar has already been published. As a result, changes should come into effect for the 2018/2019 calendar year. A copy of his presentation is posted with the meeting documentation on the [Senate website](#).

10. Question period

Ms. Sahrane thanked the President for mentioning Bissan Eid under his remarks and asked what was being done to ensure her return to Canada. Prof. Shepard replied that he had only recently found out about Ms. Eid's plight. Since then, he has been making diplomatic phone calls to government officials urging them to help resolve this situation.

In response to a query from Mr. Sherra, Prof. Shepard conveyed the steps taken to support the University's indigenous members. These include the establishment of the Indigenous Directions Leadership Group, co-chaired led by Charmaine Lyn and Elizabeth Fast, which is leading the University's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Principles for Reconciliation and Calls to Action. He noted that an update

from the Group will be provided to Senate in due course. Mr. Beauregard added that an [indigenous hub](#) had been launched two weeks ago by the Group.

Mr. Blair asked for an update regarding the eConcordia/KnowledgeOne (K1) hack. Prof. Shepard answered that the K1 database had been stolen from and that the police investigation was underway. At this point it is believed that this was done by a single person who was trying to obtain email addresses and ID numbers.

Responses to queries from several Senators in connection with the closure of the Minor in German are summarized as follows:

- ⇒ Admissions for the next academic year have been suspended while the Department makes revisions to the Minor. Students who have completed their courses without having declared their Minor will be handled on a case by case basis.
- ⇒ Dean Roy will be meeting with students next week to inform them of the situation.
- ⇒ There is some misinformation circulating concerning the number of students enrolled in the German Minor. While the number of students taking German courses has increased, the number of students registered in the German Minor has remained relatively low.

11. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate