

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

Held on Friday, December 8, 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*); Mohamed Allalou; Paul Allen; Amir Asif; Reena Atanasiadis; Guylaine Beaudry; Pascale Biron; Patrice Blais; Rory Blaisdell; Steven Brown; Saul Carliner; Graham Carr; Mikaela Clark-Gardner; Frank Crooks; Anne-Marie Croteau; Christine DeWolf; Jill Didur; Charles Draimin; Rebecca Duclos; Marcie Frank; Vince Graziano; Christophe Guy; Tefvik Karatop; Chiranjeevi Koduri; David Morris; Mahesh Natarajan; Brad Nelson (*Acting on behalf of Paula Wood-Adams*); Lorraine Oades; Harald Proppe; Martin Pugh; Omar Riaz; André Roy; Jonathan Roy; Daniel Salée; Francesca Scala; Yousef Shayan; Ali Sherra; Thufile Sirajudeen; Robert Soroka; Marc Steinberg; Shaumia Suntharalingam; Julia Suter Sardo; Leyla Sutherland; Christopher Trueman; Sharon Yonan Renold

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beaugard; Roger Côté; Isabel Dunnigan; Emmet Henchey; Lisa Ostiguy; Daniel Therrien

**ABSENT**

Voting members: Philippe Caignon; Ricardo Dal Farra; Brigitte Jaumard; Virginia Penhune; John Potvin; Sofiène Tahar; Jean-Philippe Warren

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette; Bram Freedman; Frederica Jacobs

**1. Call to order**

The President called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m., urging Senators to give generously to the Student Emergency and Food Fund, following the appeal made by Ellie Hummel in her letter which was forwarded with the meeting documentation.

**1.1 Approval of Agenda**

R-2017-8-1     *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 November 10, 2017

Ms. Tessier noted that the motion under item 6.8 of the Minutes should read “John Molson School of Business” in lieu “Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science”.

*R-2017-8-2 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 10, 2017 be approved, as revised.*

## 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:

- Concordia was recently awarded three new Canada Research Chairs totaling \$3.3 million.
- Concordia will be receiving \$9.3 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.
- Congratulations to Anne-Marie Croteau and Marc Denoncourt who have received the Méritic awards from the Réseau Action TI, in recognition of their significant contributions to Concordia and IT sector in general.
- Concordia and Equitas co-hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Human Rights Education, held from November 30 to December 3.
- Concordia International has concluded two new exchange agreements, which offer exchanges and opportunities for our students to study abroad.
- The Concordia Refugee Centre, in partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, hosted a hackathon to solve urgent refugee issues. The Centre was launched last year by students and alumni and so far has helped over 150 refugees.
- The University received a \$1.5 million gift from the R. Howard Webster Foundation to support preventive health research and student athletes.

## 4. Academic update (Document US-2017-8-D1)

Referring to page 4 of his written update, Dr. Carr clarified that the Prix Pierre-Ayot and the Prix Louis-Comtois are jointly awarded by the City of Montréal and the Contemporary Art Galleries Association, the former being awarded to up and coming artists under the age of 35 and the latter to artists who have distinguished themselves in Montreal’s contemporary art scene.

Dr. Guy announced that confirmation was just received that Concordia is one of nine Canadian universities whose proposal was accepted under the Canada Excellence Research Chair competition for its project on Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities. This new research chair will come with a \$10 million award over seven years.

## **5. Report of Standing Committees**

### **5.1 Research (Document US-2017-8-D2)**

No questions were asked in connection with this report.

### CONSENT

### **6. Committee appointments (Document US-2017-8-D3)**

R-2017-8-3 *That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2017-8-D3, be approved.*

### **7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2017-8-D4)**

#### **7.1 Graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business – Diploma in Chartered Professional Accountancy (Document US-2017-8-D6)**

R-2017-8-4 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Document US-2017-8-D6 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-8-D4.*

#### **7.2 Graduate curriculum changes – School of Graduate Studies – Doctor of/Doctorate in Philosophy (Individualized Program) (Document US-2017-8-D7)**

R-2017-8-5 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the School of Graduate Studies, outlined in Document US-2017-8-D7 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-8-D4.*

### REGULAR

### **8. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2017-8-D4)**

#### **8.1 New graduate program – Faculty of Arts and Science – Département d'Études françaises - Microprogramme en didactique et linguistique pour l'enseignement du français langue seconde (Document US-2017-8-D5)**

Dean Roy apprised Senate that there is a demand for the *Microprogramme en didactique et linguistique pour l'enseignement du français langue seconde*, a 15-credit micro-program in teaching French as a second language. Its main features include combining both theoretical and practical approaches to computer-assisted learning, highlighting how

linguistics theories are involved in language learning and teaching, and providing students experiential learning opportunities in classroom settings. This certificate will distinguish Concordia from other Quebec and Canadian universities. No additional resources are required for this new program.

Reporting on behalf of the Senate Finance Committee, Prof. Proppe read a statement on the financial aspects of the proposed program, specifying that the Committee does not comment on the academic merits. He indicated that the Committee received the proposal between meetings, such that the written report could not be prepared in time for the Senate meeting.

The Committee examined the budget included in the document and found that the anticipated financial gain for the University shown in the Chart of Expenses and Revenues is overstated. In order to get a more realistic estimate, the current income from the existing enrollment in the MA being suspended (approximately 3.3 WFTEs) as well as the enrollment in the 4 course sections (courses unknown) being replaced by courses in the new certificate need to be deducted from the projected new income generated by the enrollment in the certificate.

Dean Roy responded that the charts included in the proposal contain estimates of the number of students and that in general the Faculty is conservative in its estimates. He added that the MA in literature has been suspended for the last two years and students in the program are now ending their thesis. Full sections have not been taught. The cost-benefit analysis conducted to demonstrate the value of the new program shows a cost of \$23,000 for the first six years. The revenues will outweigh those numbers by a large margin.

*R-2017-8-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the new graduate program in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Document US-2017-8-D5, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-8-D4.*

## **9. Update on Digital Strategy project**

The Vice-Provost, Digital Strategy and University Librarian, Guylaine Beaudry, presented an overview of the new initiative to develop a university-wide digital strategy. She noted that this is one of five transformation projects being undertaken in 2017/2018 as part of the Strategic Directions initiative to position Concordia as a next-generation university.

She made the point that this is not an IT strategy. The goal is to create a coherent plan, since the digital strategy constitutes more than just tools, storage and processing. It is really about people, the objective being to create a digital culture that will allow our students, faculty and staff to thrive in a period of rapid change.

Dr. Beaudry reviewed the high-level deliverables and their timeline, as follows:

- Inventory of information systems, digital technologies, platforms, software and services used for teaching, research and communications with students (December 2017)
- Report on consultation – everyday work, goals, problems practices: personals, journeys and high-level requirements (Winter 2018)
- Environment scan report – best practices in higher education and other large organizations – President’s Speaker Series on Digital Futures (Winter 2018)
- Elements for a shared vision (Winter 2018)
- Preliminary roadmap (Spring 2018)

She also apprised Senate of the composition and mandate of the four working groups which oversee this project: the Executive Committee and the Steering Committee which meet twice a term, the Working Group which meets every 4 to 6 weeks, while the Project Support Team meets at least weekly.

So far, work has begun with a view to conduct a short survey of students’ expectations and experiences of technology, using a tool developed by JISC, a United Kingdom not-for-profit organization that provides digital solutions in education and research. The JISC Tracker Working Group plans to run the full census survey in early March.

Dr. Beaudry concluded her presentation by apprising Senate of the Concordia President’s Speaker Series on Digital Futures, which will be launched in January as part of the process to engage the Concordia community in conversations and reflection about the digital world. Senators can stay informed on the progress of the digital strategy project by consulting the Digital Strategy Website.

#### **10. Student health and wellbeing review (Document US-2017-8-D8)**

Dr. Ostiguy noted that the student health and wellbeing review was launched in the Fall, following a request by the President, to look at what the University is doing collectively. A committee was formed with University-wide representation, and a consultant was hired to provide a review of literature in the six areas to be examined as well as best practices and trends in health and wellbeing in North American universities.

The objective of today’s exercise is to obtain feedback from Senators on a series of ideas put forward during three Ideas Cafés to enhance student services. A summary of those ideas is represented on three graphic displays posted around the room.

Dr. Ostiguy invited Senators to take a look at each graphic display and place a red dot next to the ideas that resonate the most with them. She also invited Senators to write down any suggestion regarding an alternate idea which is not included on the graphic displays and place it in the suggestion box. The Committee will review all the feedback.

Following this exercise, in response to a question, Dr. Ostiguy indicated that all ideas will be considered by the Committee, even those not identified by a red dot.

**11. Question period**

No questions were posed.

**12. Other business**

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.



Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate