

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

Held on Friday, October 5, 2018,
following the meeting of the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Sarah Abou-Bakr; Sami Al-Hanbali; Ali Akgunduz; Paul Allen; Amir Asif; Reena Atanasiadis; Leslie Barker; Guylaine Beaudry; Pascale Biron; Rory Blaisdell; Mathilde Braems; Christophe Brett; Graham Carr; Mikaela Clark-Gardner; Sally Cooke; Mark Corwin; Frank Crooks; Anne-Marie Croteau; Christine DeWolf; Rebecca Duclos; Mehdi Farashahi; Vince Graziano; Rim Hamila; Brigitte Jaumard; Jean-Gabriel Lacombe; Sarah Mazhero; David Morris; Virginia Penhune; Justin Powlowski (*Acting for Christophe Guy*); Martin Pugh; André Roy; Daniel Salée; Francesca Scala; Safa Sheikh; Ali Sherra; Matt Soar; Robert Soroka; Marc Steinberg; Ron Stern; Nafisa Tabassum Jamal; Christopher Trueman; Jean-Philippe Warren; Paula Wood-Adams; Radu Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beauregard; Roger Côté; Marcel Dupuis; Emmet Henchey; Tom Hughes; Ilze Kraulis; Melodie Sullivan (*Acting for Frederica Jacobs*); Anne Whitelaw

ABSENT

Voting members: Shaina Ali; Jill Didur; Marcie Frank; Zenobia Pais; John Potvin; Rashmikaa Sethu Madhavan

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette; Isabel Dunnigan

1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2018-6-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved, with the removal of item 8 from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.*

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 14, 2018

R-2018-6-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 14, 2018 be approved, as corrected.*

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

During the course of his remarks, Prof. Shepard commented that the glow of the recent \$15 million gift by Gina Cody continues to be felt. Dr. Cody is a true ambassador. The gift and the renaming of the School made nationwide and worldwide news, having a powerful impact on the University's reputation as well as current students and alumni.

He apprised Senators that enrolments continue to be robust. The Shuffle, held last Friday, has raised over \$100,000, with the largest percentage of students having participated in the walk, including student leaders.

The President reported that the Homecoming events were well attended and encouraged everyone to participate in the Open House on October 20, which is an opportunity for the University to showcase its students, faculty, staff, programs and facilities.

4. Academic update (Document US-2018-5-D2)

As complimentary information to his written update, Dr. Carr reiterated that Dr. Cody's gift will set an impressive pathway in the future for the School as a leader in next generation research. He urged Senators to attend the upcoming annual conference of the Oral History Association, hosted this year by Concordia's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, between October 10 and 14.

CONSENT

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2018-6-D3)

R-2018-6-6 *That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2018-6-D3, be approved.*

6. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2018-6-D4)

6.1 Undergraduate curriculum changes - Faculty of Arts and Science

6.1.1 Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability (Document US-2018-6-D5)

6.1.2 Simone de Beauvoir Institute and Women's Studies (Document US-2018-6-D6)

R-2018-6-7 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2018-6-D5 and D6, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2018-6-D4.*

6.2 Institute for Cooperative Education

6.2.1 Editorial changes and updates to regulations and requirements (Document US-2018-6-D7)

6.2.2 Accelerated Career Experience option (Document US-2018-6-D8)

R-2018-6-8 *That the changes in the Institute for Cooperative Education, outlined in Documents US-2018-6-D7 and D8 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2018-6-D4.*

7. Revisions to the membership of the Council of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science (Document US-2018-6-D9)

R-2018-6-9 *That, on recommendation of the Council of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the membership of the Council of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, as outlined in Document US-2018-6-D9.*

REGULAR

8. Graduate calendar regulation changes (Document US-2018-6-D10)

In response to a concern that lowering the GPA requirement for master's, diploma and graduate certificate programs from 3.0 to 2.7 would affect the University's credibility with the funding agencies, Dr. Wood-Adams conveyed that the School had looked at the requirements of 14 Canadian comprehensive and major research-intensive universities.

One-third have a GPA requirement of 3.0 for graduation but allow that a grade be replaced when repeating a failed course, in which case the failed grade is not factored into the GPA, while two-thirds, including University of Toronto, have a GPA requirement of 2.7 but require that all grades be factored into the GPA. It was decided to adopt the latter approach, to bring Concordia's practice in line with the national norm.

9. Presentation on digital strategy

Dr. Beaudry played an introductory video in connection with the digital transformation of the landscape of higher education. She recapitulated some of the activities so far in connection with the digital strategy, including the President's speaker series on digital futures, an environmental scan, a student survey as well as the consultation process, which includes student, faculty and staff focus groups as well as individual interviews.

She then presented the results of the digital strategy public consultations. The findings will help shape the digital strategy, the ultimate goal being to improve the user

experience and to put people before technology. To accomplish this goal, we need to have an action plan towards building a roadmap.

Dr. Beaudry apprised Senate that 4,200 individuals participated in one way or another to the public consultation phase and invited Senators to read the full report which is posted on the website. The public consultation included establishing various personas of student, faculty and staff user profiles to understand their experience to map their journeys. She conveyed the various observations and needs which emerged from each of those groups regarding the digital skills, communications, experience with the current digital environment and use of technology to teach, research and work and also outlined the main and future challenges identified by each group.

Dr. Beaudry presented some metrics from the student survey, which provides insight on how students rate the quality of their digital experience relative to their institution, their courses, the tools they use as well as their attitudes regarding digital learning. She also summarized the key findings resulting from the report.

The digital transformation affecting higher education is rapid and widespread. As a community, Concordia needs to take charge and seize every opportunity and contribute to forging the new digital landscape of higher education and become a reference as a next-generation university.

To achieve the foregoing, she presented a roadmap which includes 11 projects proposed under five themes and invited Senators to take a few minutes to comment on those projects until November 9. Following her presentation, Dr. Beaudry responded to questions and comments.

10. Ad Hoc Committee to Review Senate Eligibility Requirements (Document US-2018-6-D11)

Ms. Clark-Gardner and Sophie Hough-Martin, the CSU's General Coordinator and principal spokesperson, gave a presentation to outline the reasons why an Ad Hoc Committee should be established to reconsider eligibility requirements.

They said that students on conditional standing are excluded from the major decision-making bodies and provided examples of several situations that can lead to conditional standing which are not attributable to a student's academic capabilities. They made the point that international students, in particular, face many more obstacles, and that conditional standing is not decided by overall academic performance.

Ms. Clark-Gardner and Ms. Hough-Martin apprised Senate of other barriers related to conditional standing. In their view, there is a clear gap between what students experience with conditional standing and what administrators, faculty and staff understand to be true about conditional standing. For those reasons, the CSU feels very strongly that this issue needs to be discussed.

They spoke of the student autonomy provided by the *Accreditation Act* as well as the CSU election and appointment process. They also made the point that none of the major Canadian universities have such academic performance requirement. They concluded their presentation by reiterating that the current academic assessment process is not working as intended and that this aspect was not considered in 2016.

Prof. Morris, who chaired the Ad Hoc Committee in 2016, apprised Senate that he had been persuaded that the discussion should be reopened. While the 2016 discussion focused on the codes of conduct, academic standing was addressed, primarily in relation to cases where a student, due to health or other personal circumstances, for example, is on conditional standing, but would be capable of serving on Senate.

In 2016, the prevailing view was that Concordia's academic procedures would allow such a student to fix their academic record in time to serve on Senate. But new evidence suggests that this does not always work. It would fit with the 2016 outcome, and with Concordia efforts to support inclusivity, to discuss this issue. For those reasons, he is in favor of establishing the Ad Hoc Committee.

R-2018-6-10 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was resolved that Senate establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review Senate Eligibility Requirements and that Steering Committee be mandated to establish the mandate and membership of said Ad Hoc Committee.*

11. Question period

In response to a query, Prof. Shepard informed Senators that he had yet to receive any instructions or communications from the newly-elected Quebec government on any matter or issue relative to the University.

12. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate