

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

Held on Friday, May 18, 2018,
following the meeting of the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LL.D Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Paul Allen; Amir Asif; Reena Atanasiadis; Guylaine Beaudry; Pascale Biron; Patrice Blais; Rory Blaisdell; Stephen Brown; Saul Carliner; Graham Carr; Mikaela Clark-Gardner; Anne-Marie Croteau; Ricardo Dal Farra; Christine DeWolf; Charles Draimin; Rebecca Duclos; Christophe Guy; Brigitte Jaumard; David Morris; Harald Proppe; Martin Pugh; Omar Riaz; André Roy; Daniel Salée; Francesca Scala; Yousef Shayan; Ali Sherra; Matt Soar; Robert Soroka; Marc Steinberg; Shaumia Suntharalingam; Leyla Sutherland; Sofiène Tahar; Christopher Trueman; Vivek Venkatesh (*Acting for Paula Wood-Adams*); Sharon Yonan Renold

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beauregard; Denis Cossette; Roger Côté; Bram Freedman; Tom Hughes; Ilze Kraulis; Lisa Ostiguy

ABSENT

Voting members: Frank Crooks; Jill Didur; Marcie Frank; Vince Graziano; Tevfik Karatop; Chiranjeevi Koduri; Mahesh Natarajan; Lorraine Oades; Virginia Penhune; John Potvin; Thufile Sirajudeen; Julia Sutera Sardo; Jean-Philippe Warren

Non-voting members: Isabel Dunnigan; Emmet Henchey; Frederica Jacobs

1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2018-4-7 *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 April 20, 2018

Ms. Tessier noted a correction in the 5th bullet of item 3 on page 2 with respect to the designation of the granting agencies.

R-2018-4-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 20, 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

The President's remarks are summarized as follows:

- The University mourns the loss of Gordon Dionne, manager of the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities and a huge advocate for students, who passed away on May 11 following a battle with cancer.
- He thanked all Senators for the work accomplished throughout the year, and in particular, the work done at the standing committee level.
- He congratulated Bram Freedman, who is leaving the University in July, further to his appointment as President and CEO of the Jewish General Hospital Foundation. Me Freedman has been a great advocate of Concordia for over 20 years, and because of his leadership, the Advancement Office is in excellent shape to gear up for the comprehensive campaign.
- He urged Senators to attend the upcoming convocation ceremonies, at which time 11 honorary degrees will be awarded.
- He updated Senate on several research grants and awards received by Concordia faculty members.
- He apprised Senators that the Quebec government had recently announced revisions to the funding for universities. He noted that the University is still studying those revisions, specifying that they do affect current students, nor those who applied for 2018/2019. The most significant change is to funding for international students for 2019/2020. The government will allow the University to retain the "forfaitaire" but will cancel all other grants (teaching, support, land and building). The impact of these changes on the University and the students is still unknown.
- With respect to the guidelines recently released by the Quebec government on how it will assess requests for religious accommodation under Bill 62, the President noted that the University policies will continue to be applied and that no changes are anticipated at the present time. He added that Lisa Ostiguy has been designated as the person responsible for dealing with accommodation requests, as required under the law.

4. Academic update (Document US-2018-4-D5)

Referring to his written report, Dr. Carr drew attention to the winners of two prestigious awards, Amir Hooshair who received the NSERC Gilles Brassard Doctoral Prize for Interdisciplinary Research, and Frédérique Laliberté who was awarded a Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art.

5. Report of Standing Committees

5.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2018-4-D6)

5.2 Finance (Document US-2018-4-D7)

5.3 Library (Document US-2018-4-D8)

No questions were asked in connection with these reports.

CONSENT

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2018-4-D9)

R-2018-4-9 That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2018-4-D9, be approved

7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2018-4-D10)

7.1 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

7.1.1 Department of Applied Human Science (Document US-2018-4-D11)

7.1.2 Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics (Document US-2018-4-D12)

7.1.3 Department of Sociology and Anthropology (Document US-2018-4-D13)

R-2018-4-10 That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2018-4-D11 to D13 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2018-4-D10.

7.2 Undergraduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business – Bachelor of/Baccalaureate in Commerce (Document US-2018-4-D14)

R-2018-4-11 That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Document US-2018-4-D14 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2018-4-D10.

REGULAR

8. New undergraduate program – John Molson School of Business – BComm Honours in Management (Document US-2018-4-D15)

Dean Croteau presented the highlights of this new Honours program, which creates an opportunity for the most talented management students to do research in small-business development, sustainability initiatives or leadership and interpersonal relations in larger

firms. The honours designation will enhance the value of their degree and encourage some of these students to pursue graduate work in management.

R-2018-4-12 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the new undergraduate program in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Document US-2018-4-D15 be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2018-4-D10.

9. Name change of the Department of Exercise Science to the Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology (Document US-2018-4-D16)

Dean Roy introduced this matter while Department Chair Richard Courtemanche outlined the various steps in connection with the extensive consultation process and the in-depth review which was initiated over four years ago, resulting in the proposed name change.

R-2018-4-13 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that on recommendation of the Arts and Science Faculty Council, Senate recommend to the Board of Governors the approval of the name change of the Department of Exercise Science to the Department of Health, Kinesiology, and Applied Physiology.

10. Presentation on elearning at eConcordia

Sandra Gabriele, Vice-Provost, Innovation in Teaching and Learning, explained the impact of changing demographics on higher education and how online learning can complement traditional classroom delivery. Online learning can help address the increasing interest for lifelong learning and demand for flexibility. It can also provide an opportunity for growth by allowing access to underserved populations and alleviate acute space challenges. Moreover, the development of future skills, such as self-directed learning, time management, new media literacy, and virtual collaboration, are the hallmark of online learning.

Dr. Gabriele provided some statistics with respect to the enrolment in online courses as well as perceptions in relation thereto. She also showed how Concordia compares to other universities with respect to the number of online courses and programs offered.

Robert Beauchemin, President and CEO, said that eConcordia has changed a lot since its establishment in 2001, the most important change being its alignment with the University's strategic directions. For each course, it offers a tailor-made, non-template-based approach as well as a dedicated analysis phase. He also apprised Senate of the University's engagement with the government project eCampus Québec, a virtual provincial campus for the entire province.

Gabriel Rosenbaum, a part-time faculty member in the Department of Physics, presented the development journey and course examples for two courses he teaches online. Jesse Harris, Project Manager, emphasized that the courses are not-template based but custom-fit, aligned with the teaching style and pedagogy of the instructor, in accordance with the

desired learning outcomes. Dr. Rosenbaum conveyed that online courses allow for a broad reach of material which is based on learning objectives as opposed time in the classroom, while allowing a versatility of teaching tools.

In response to questions or comments, the following was clarified:

- ⇒ A Concordia study has demonstrated that if the design and pedagogy is strong, there is no difference whatsoever between online courses and face-to-face courses.
- ⇒ The financial statements of eConcordia and KnowledgeOne will not be presented to Senate, as this is outside of Senate's mandate.
- ⇒ The money generated by KnowledgeOne is rolled back to the University.
- ⇒ About ¾ of Concordia students are taking one online course.
- ⇒ The inability to access or download textbooks purchased once the course has been completed is linked to copyright issues.
- ⇒ The access to course material purchased once the course has been completed depends on the choice of the instructor.

11. Question period

Ms. Clark-Gardner read a statement in which she conveyed student concerns in connection with tuition fee increases which will be presented for approval at the upcoming Board meeting. She noted the lack of student consultation and that requests for information had remained unanswered.

Prof. Shepard explained how tuition fees are regulated by the government, indicating that tuition is not negotiable with student associations. While the University is sensitive to the situation and tries to keep increases at a minimum, he reminded Senators that the University had to absorb four budget cuts over six years totaling \$90 million.

Mr. Blaisdell suggested that more students should participate in the budget conversations and that outreach should be done with student groups to engage them in those conversations. Prof. Shepard agreed that this could be helpful.

12. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate