



SENATE ANNUAL REPORT

2015–2016

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Concordia University Senate 2015/2016 annual report, which provides information on the Senate's role and operations for the past academic year.

The University continued to build on its momentum in 2015/2016. With Concordians claiming everything from an Oscar nomination, two Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts, and Trudeau, Vanier and Fulbright Scholarships, to multi-million-dollar grants, 10 seats in the House of Commons, and, collectively, steadily improving results in national and international university rankings, our community once again had many reasons to celebrate.

I thank all departing and continuing members of Senate for their hard work during this exceptionally busy year. My special thanks go to the Strategic Directions Advisory Committee, which successfully engaged the entire Concordia community in formulating and setting in motion our university's road map for the coming years.

Through this and all our work, together we are further strengthening Concordia's reputation for changing lives and helping the next generation improve our society.



Alan Shepard

MANDATE

Senate is responsible for the academic governance of the University, including matters related to research, faculties, departments, libraries, programs and courses, academic standards, regulations, policies and procedures, and the granting of degrees, diplomas and certificates (excluding honorary degrees). The functions and powers of Senate are listed in [Section 13](#) of the By-Laws.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The work of Senate is supported by its nine standing committees which regularly report to Senate and bring forward recommendations as required. A full description of each committee's composition and mandate is included in the [Membership and Functions of Senate Standing Committees](#).

STEERING COMMITTEE

Reviews Senate Agendas and ensures that the documentation forwarded to Senate is appropriate and in a form permitting effective debate.

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE (APPC)

Studies and evaluates the implications of all proposals regarding academic development and priorities, supports the academic planning function of the University and makes reports and recommendations to Senate on academic planning and academic priorities.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (APC)

Coordinates and makes recommendations to Senate regarding credit programs and undergraduate academic regulations.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Studies and makes recommendations to Senate concerning the development, administration, guidelines and policies regarding research and the support thereof.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Acts as an advisory body to the University Librarian and Senate in connection with library objectives, policies, and budget and the development of its services and collections.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Analyzes the relevant operating and capital budgets to inform the Senate discussion thereof.

SPECIAL GRADUATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

Solicits and reviews nominations and recommends recipients to Senate for the eight special graduation awards.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS COMMITTEE

Assesses and reviews nominations and recommends to Senate the awarding of the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Oversees and enforces the application of the *Code of Ethics and Conduct Applicable to Members of Senate and Members of Committees Established by Senate (US-1)*.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Ad hoc committees are established from time to time to address issues falling outside of the mandate of the standing committees. One such committee was established during the 2015/2016 academic year.

AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SENATE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Some student representatives elected to Senate for the 2016/2017 academic year are ineligible to serve because they have received a sanction of reprimand under the Code of Rights and Responsibilities. This ad hoc committee was established by Steering Committee following the discussion of proposed revisions to the Senate eligibility requirements put forth by the students and the University at the April Senate meeting, neither of which were adopted. The mandate of the ad hoc committee is to review the current eligibility requirements for constituents to serve on Senate and its standing committees and bring forward a recommendation to Senate in the Fall 2016.

MEETINGS

Nine regular meetings of Senate were held during the 2015/2016 academic year:

September 11, 2015
October 2, 2015
November 6, 2015
December 4, 2015
January 15, 2016
February 12, 2016
March 11, 2016
April 22, 2016
May 13, 2016

The summary and highlights of the main topics discussed during the year are summarized hereinafter. The full details are included in the [Minutes](#) which are posted on the Senate website.

ACADEMIC PLAN

In keeping with the commitment to provide regular reports and presentations to Senate throughout the year in connection with the implementation of the [Academic Plan](#), the Provost provided written reports and also summarized these reports orally at each Senate meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

During the academic year, Senate received regular updates in connection with the strategic planning process following the approval of the [strategic directions](#) by the Board in June 2015.

In December 2015, a comprehensive update was provided by the chairs of the working groups of the four cross-institutional strategies (*Grow Smartly, Embrace the City – Embrace the World, Double our Research, and Teach for Tomorrow*).

At the March 2016 meeting, roundtable discussions were held to obtain the input of Senators on a draft game plan which identifies priority actions required to become a future-ready, next-generation university.

Senators were provided an opportunity for further input to the revised [game plan](#) which was presented to Senate in May 2016. Presentations were also given by the four Faculty Deans, the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and the University Librarian to give a general overview of what is to come with respect with their areas. A summary of the report from the ad hoc group on sustainability, entitled “*Sustainability as an Animating Theme for Concordia University’s New Strategic Directions*”, was also presented by the Provost’s Fellow for Sustainability, Peter Stoett.

RESEARCH

- In accordance with the *Policy on Research Units (VPRGS-8)*, during the course of the year Senate granted the university-recognition status to:
 - Centre for Sensory Studies (CSS)
 - Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology (CASB)
 - [The Gail and Stephen A. Jarislawsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art](#)
- In order to conform to the *Politique sur la conduite responsable en recherche* adopted by the Fonds de Recherche du Québec, Senate approved revisions to the *Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research (VPRGS-12)*.
- In April 2016 Senate approved the creation of the *Distinguished University Research Professor Award*. This award recognizes outstanding and sustained distinction in research and is open to all Concordia faculty members holding the rank of full professor.

CURRICULUM CHANGES

While Senate approved numerous undergraduate curriculum changes and regulations as well as numerous graduate curriculum changes throughout the year, of special note is the approval of the following new programs:

- *Doctor of/Doctorate in Philosophy (Health and Exercise Science)*: addresses a societal need and is distinct and unique because of its integrative approach to the broad domains of health research from the molecular to systems approaches and from the level of the individual to that of the population. This program is an important component of the future of the PERFORM Centre.
- *Doctor of/Doctorate in Software Engineering*: over a third of doctoral students registered in the PhD in Computer Science are doing research in software engineering, and with the

implementation of this new PhD, graduates will be recognized with the appropriate degree in their area of expertise. Since the Ministry of Education considers this new PhD program as an administrative re-organization rather than the creation of a new program, students may be formally accepted for the 2016/2017 academic year.

- *Doctor of/Doctorate in Philosophy (Communication)*: minor changes were made in concert with the main request to separate from the current partners, Université de Montréal and Université du Québec à Montréal, thereby becoming an independently-administered PhD program, which allows greater control over learning outcomes.
- *Graduate Certificate in Innovation, Technology and Society*: this 15-credit graduate certificate features a nine-credit common core together with a six-credit supervised practicum, which responds to the growing interest for innovation training. It will be the only program in North America which offers theoretical coursework together with a practicum component.
- *Biology Co-operative Education program*: provides students with a framework for gaining program-related work experience between academic terms and allow them to expand their educational experience beyond the classroom. Graduates will benefit from experience to improve their employment opportunities and also receive hands-on experience which will prepare them should they decide to pursue graduate studies.
- *Certificate in Foundations for Business*: this new non-degree program addresses the needs of independent students who wish to qualify for admission to the BComm or BAdmin programs. The certificate draws from existing courses and

may also appeal to students whose preference is to follow a short program of study or who wish to update their knowledge or learn the foundations for business studies.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES

- Senate approved revisions to the membership of the [Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science](#), which had not been updated since March 1999.
- Senate was apprised of a proposal to establish the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science that would enable the Faculty to cover a wider spectrum of engineering disciplines. An assessment of the capital needs will be done over the summer, further to which the proposal will be presented for approval in the Fall 2016.
- Policy on Postdoctoral Fellows ([VPRSG-4](#)): Senate approved three major revisions to the Policy, which include the status change from “trainee” to “employee”, the implementation of a minimum stipend/salary for postdoctoral fellows and a new centralized appointment process under the purview of the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.
- Policy on Audio and/or Video Recording of Lectures ([PRVPAA-2](#)): Senate approved this new Policy which recognizes the valid personal and academic reasons for allowing and using recordings as a study tool while setting out the rules and regulations surrounding the recording of lectures by students and professors.
- Policy regarding Sexual Violence ([PRVPAA-3](#)): This new Policy, approved by the Board of Governors and presented to Senate for information, was created in response to a recommendation of the Sexual Assault Policy

Review Working Group that the University adopt a stand-alone policy on sexual violence. It links to existing policies, applies to all members of the Concordia community and includes a definition of sexual violence, a definition of consent aligned with the Criminal Code, sections specifically related to sexual harassment and sexual assault, and a link to procedures manual that describes the process and available support services.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Senate for the 2015/2016 (as of April 2016) included:

VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Alan Shepard,
President and Vice-Chancellor

Benoit-Antoine Bacon,
Provost and Vice-President,
Academic Affairs

Graham Carr,
Vice-President, Research and
Graduate Studies

André Roy,
Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science

Amir Asif,
Dean, Faculty of Engineering &
Computer Science

Rebecca Duclos,
Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

Stéphane Brutus,
Interim Dean, John Molson
School of Business

Paula Wood-Adams,
Dean, School of Graduate
Studies

Guylaine Beaudry,
University Librarian

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Patrice Blais (PT)

Philippe Caignon

Saul Carliner

Richard Courtemanche

Effrosyni Diamantoudi

Mariana Frank

André Furlani

Sandra Gabriele

Norman Ingram

David Morris

Monica Mulrennan

Virginia Penhune

Harald Proppe

Rosemary Reilly

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Anjali Agarwal

Ali Akgunduz

Yousef Shayan

Ted Stathopoulos

Sofiène Tahar

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Ricardo Dal Farra

David Douglas (PT)

Eliza Griffiths

Johanne Sloan

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Frank Crooks

Charles Draimin

Lea Katsanis

Gordon Leonard (PT)

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN

Vince Graziano

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Stephen Brown

Mikaela Clark-Gardner

Kira Cormier

Jenna Cucullo

Lana Galbraith

Jana Ghalayini

Maidina Kadeer-Ozbek

Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis

Marion Miller

Aloyse Muller

Benjamin Prunty

Terry Wilkings

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Khushboo Handa

Jithin Nair

Alex Ocheoha

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Philippe Beaugregard,
Chief Communications Officer

Patrick Kelley, Interim
Chief Financial Officer

Bradley Tucker,
University Registrar

Bram Freedman,
Vice-President, Advancement
and External Relations

Frederica Jacobs,
Secretary-General and General
Counsel

Roger Côté,
Vice-President, Services

Lisa Ostiguy,
Deputy Provost

Isabel Dunnigan,
Director, Centre for Continuing
Education

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Joanne Beaudoin

Rachel Marion

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Danielle Tessier

