

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

Friday, September 29, 2023,
Following the Closed Session of Senate
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) SGW Campus
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting members:

Anne Whitelaw (Chair)	Selvadurai Dayanandan	Christopher Moore
Angelica Antonakopoulos	Mourad Debbabi	Catherine Mulligan
Leslie Barker	Larry Deck	Xavier Ottenwaelder (zoom)
Sabine Bergler	Effrosyni Diamantoudi	Robert Padmore
Dominique Bérubé	Mehdi Farashahi (zoom)	Mireille Paquet (zoom)
Beverley Best	Ariela Freedman	Véronique Pepin
Theresa Bianco	Annie Gérin	Mahshid Rahbari
Amy Buckland	Bonnie Harnden	Rosemary Reilly (zoom)
Alexandrah Cardona	Steve Henle	Pascale Sicotte
Graham Carr (arrived 2:34)	Arnav Ishaan	Ahmed Soliman
Sally Cooke	Mehdi Kharazmi	Sofiène Tahar
Roy Cross	Raghulkanna Lakshmanan	Craig Townsend
Anne-Marie Croteau	Harley Martin (zoom)	Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard (arrived 2:36), Stéphanie de Celles, Isabel Dunnigan, Nadia Hardy, Frederica Jacobs, Stefana Nita, Carlos Santana, Olivia Ward

Also attending: Caroline Baril, Alison Beck, William Cheaib, Amy Fish, Lisa Ostiguy, Melodie Sullivan

ABSENT

Voting members:

Matthew Barker	Charles Rohinth Joseph	David Morris
Fabienne Cyrius	Moshe Lander	Ian Rakita

Dany-Ariel Ishimwe

Michael Lecchino

Roberto Viereck-Salinas

Non-voting members: Paul Chesser, Denis Cossette, Michael Di Grappa

1. Call to order

A. Whitelaw called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2023-5-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of May 19, 2023, Minutes

R-2023-5-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 19, 2023, be adopted.

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. Academic update (Document US-2023-5-D2)

A. Whitelaw noted that there was nothing to add to the written Academic Update that had been circulated with the meeting documentation.

CONSENT

4. Tribunal Pool/Committee Nominations (Document US-2023-5-D3)

R-2023-5-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Tribunal Pool and Committee appointments be approved.

5. Annual Report Academic Hearing Panels (Document US-2023-5-D4)

6. Committee reports (Document US-2023-5-D5)

7. Library Spectrum Report (Document US-2023-5-D6)

8. Registrar's Report on Spring 2023 Graduation (Document US-2023-5-D7)

These reports were provided for information purposes only.

REGULAR

9. Annual Report of the Ombudsperson (Document US-2023-5-D8)

Amy Fish, the Ombudsperson, presented highlights of the annual report, including some key statistics. A. Fish was pleased to inform Senate that there were no major problems throughout the year and underlined the University's commitment to openness and fairness. While the number and complexity of files had changed since the pandemic started, there were signs that the number of complaints would fall back to pre-pandemic levels. There were 416 active files. A majority of the files were of students (64%) and faculty (14%). Staff requests related to questions about policies and procedures were also slightly rising.

The Ombuds Office had provided some recommendations to the University, some of which A. Fish shared with Senate.

When students in failed standing apply for re-admission to the University, they are required to apply to the department where they were originally registered. If they make a mistake and apply to the wrong department (or Faculty), they do not get a notification that they had applied to the wrong department and their application would not be processed. Upon recommendation from the Ombuds Office, the University was looking to change this process so that students re-applying to Concordia would be informed if they made an error.

The second scenario pertained to the transfer of credits for students applying to Concordia with a technical DEC. The Ombuds Office was asked to review a situation where a student was not granted the exemptions they thought they would receive with a technical DEC. To correct this, the University was looking into the Ombuds Office's recommendation to correctly evaluate and grant credits for technical DEC coursework, at the time of application.

In a third case, A. Fish described situations where staff had raised concerns about their pay. Due to the recent transition to UNITY, there were mistakes on T4 forms and when the Human Resources team was contacted, they were responsive and provided support to look into the errors.

As a final example, A. Fish spoke of parents who request access to personal information of their adult children in order to advocate on their behalf. This is not permitted unless the appropriate form has been completed. Some persistent parents went to the length of drafting documents themselves to gain access to their children's information. The Ombuds Office has recommended the use of proper documentation when a request for a student's personal records or information is received.

10. New Accelerated MBA Program (Document US-2023-5-D9)

A. Whitelaw introduced the amendment to the Investment MBA program, with the introduction of an accelerated option. Dean Croteau spoke to a few details of the program.

There were no questions related to this item.

R-2023-5-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, Senate approve the MBA in Investment Management – Accelerated Option program as detailed in the attached document.*

- **Question period**

During question period, a question was asked about the reporting of graduation statistics and the use of the gender binary in the report. The Registrar clarified that this was still as per the government requirement for reporting and that the law hadn't been changed to allow for non-binary reporting. The University allows for students to formally request the use preferred names but is unable to change this from a reporting standpoint until the law is changed.

Another question came up in relation to the use of AI and violations under the Academic Code. A. Whitelaw responded by providing a list of the initiatives that were in place at the University to provide support and tools to the community to understand and work with AI. The University was also working on bringing guidelines related to AI shortly. Other information could be found on the websites of the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Library. Academic integrity workshops designed to respond to questions around AI were also being offered.

F. Jacobs clarified that under Article 19 of the Academic Code, any misuse of AI would still be covered and considered a violation of the code.

- **President's Remarks**

The President joined the meeting and delivered his remarks, which are summarized as follows:

- Dr. Carr began by apologizing for his late arrival to the meeting, noting that he had just come from an event with Éric Girard, Québec's Minister of Finance. He then congratulated the community on a high-energy beginning of semester, which included classes, events, activities in person. The orientation went very well on both the campuses and was a great start to the year.
- The 20th annual Concordia Golf Classic raised a record \$600,000, bringing the total to more than \$7.5 million since its inception. Sponsored by Canada's nine major banks, the event hosted 150 business leaders on September 5th.
- The 34th edition of Concordia's Shuffle raised \$201,000 and counting, which various gifts continuing in until next week. More than 800 Concordians joined the fun in the 6.5-kilometre walkathon from Sir George Williams campus to Loyola Campus. The top fundraising team was The Pacemakers raising \$14,553.

- Homecoming took place the previous week (from September 21 to 24) and included various events: a panel of experts discussing the future of artificial intelligence, a Stingers football tailgate, Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony and others.
- This year is the first academic year with a fall reading week in the week of October 9 and it will also be the first year when Concordia moves from a 13-week teaching semester to a 12-week teaching semester. This will hopefully provide a welcome pause to everyone, including faculty who can use the time to work on their research proposals, for the fall deadlines.
- Dr. Carr spoke of the diplomatic situation with India and noted that the University has a large cohort of faculty, staff and students who are of Indian origin. The previous year, the perception of Canada had suffered due to the delays in visas, so this damaged perception is going to continue to be worrisome. The University has reached out to the Indian students and reminded them that they have services to support them. The University hopes the diplomatic situation resolves quickly and avoids any major impact to higher education sector.
- Dr. Carr then went on to note various news of accomplishments in the community, including the awarding of the Mackenzie King Open Scholarship to Creative Arts Therapies MA student Madeline K. Montgomery. Only one open scholarship is awarded each year, in support of graduate study in Canada or internationally. M. K. Montgomery is the first-ever Concordian to receive this scholarship.
- Space Concordia's students won the student design challenge hosted by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics/Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers at the Electrified Aircraft Technologies Symposium.
- Another Concordia student team had a podium finish at the New Housing Division of the United States Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon, coming up with a very innovative design for northern housing. This competition and the competition won by Space Concordia are both competitions against the top international universities.
- He congratulated faculty member Deanna Bowen, whose art installation - a giant piece of installation art entitled *The Black Canadians after Cooke* - was displayed on the south wall of the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa.
- Dr. Carr reminded Senators that September 30 is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. He invited everyone to walk around the two campuses to admire the spectacular orange lighting of the AD and EV buildings, which has become a University tradition for marking this day. He noted that the University has launched a five -year initiative to decolonize and Indigenize its curriculum and pedagogy. The initiative follows a commitment made in the Indigenous Directions Action Plan, which was released in 2019.
- The previous evening, Dr. Carr had the pleasure of attending an awareness evening at Kahnawà:ke for the imminent ground-breaking of a new cultural arts center and

museum. The event was hosted by Chief Sky Deer and several proud Concordia graduates were in attendance as well. At one point during the evening, G. Carr was pleased to listen in on a spontaneous conversation among guests about the great things that the University was doing through the Otsenhákta Student Center.

- Dr. Carr noted that as far as university rankings, Concordia's international reputation continues to soar. Earlier this summer, QS rankings service in London, UK released its global rankings of universities, and, while they cover more than 20,000 universities in the world, they focus on smaller, more select sample sizes. Concordia University jumped more than 160 spots to be placed at 387, the first time that Concordia broke the 400 ranks. The rank may not seem so high but given the number of universities in the world and the other universities in the group, it was a great community to be ranked with.
- He noted that part of what is driving this pattern are contributions of different departments, research areas, faculties. Last week, global computer science rankings were released, which measure the research output of hundreds of institutions world-wide: The Gina Cody School's Software Engineering program has been ranked 1st in Canada, 3rd in North America, and 5th in the world. At a time when computer science is one of the hottest talent development disciplines globally, this result should be a phenomenal statement for Québec.
- **Other business**

There was no other business to bring before the Open Session.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of Senate