



SENATE ANNUAL REPORT

2017–2018

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This annual report for Concordia University's Senate provides the highlights of activities for the 2017/2018 academic year.

Our university's sustained momentum is reflected in a number of measures.

In the QS 'Under 50' ranking, we were named top university in Canada and second in North America. And we tied for top university in the nation in the Times Higher Education 'Top 150 Young Universities' ranking.

Our external research funding continues to rise, and our scholars are securing bigger and more prestigious awards – SSHRC partnership grants, NSERC network funding, and training support through NSERC's CREATE program.

Since last year, our Indigenous Directions Leadership Group has added nine members and run many popular leadership and community events.

We launched a number of new academic programs that will help students deepen their expertise and prepare them for a rapidly evolving job market.

We'll soon be the first Canadian university with a comprehensive Digital Strategy, a key piece of our Strategic Directions.

It all adds up to another year of record applications and enrolment, and has put us well more than halfway to our \$250-million goal in our Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

My sincere thanks to all of the departing and continuing members of Senate for their hard work during the past year. Your dedication and leadership inspire me and help Concordia pursue its mission as a next-generation university.



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)*.

MEETINGS

Eight regular meetings of Senate were held during the 2017/2018 academic year:

September 15, 2017	January 19, 2018
October 13, 2017	March 16, 2018
November 10, 2017	April 20, 2018
December 8, 2017	May 18, 2018

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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

At the October meeting, Senate received a two-part update on the [strategic directions](#), the first focusing on a review of the [first moves](#) accomplished during the previous academic year following the implementation of the strategic directions, the second looking as to how the strategic directions can contribute to the attainment of the University's vision and ultimate objective of becoming a next-generation university.

RESEARCH

Pursuant to a recommendation of the Research Committee, Senate approved the *Equity, Diversity and Including Plan (EDI)*, required by the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Secretariat for institutions with five or more chair allocations in order to guide institutional efforts in increasing the participation of individuals from the four designated groups (FDGs) – women, persons with disabilities, aboriginal peoples and members of visible minorities. The EDI is a shared undertaking of the Offices of the Vice-President, Research and the Provost and contains 15 key actions, comprised of both short- and long-term goals.

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:

- *Minor in Biophysics*: offers a more mathematical and quantitative approach to complement

the life sciences education of non-physics BSc students.

- *BSc Honours in Kinesiology and Clinical Exercise Physiology and BSc Honours in Athletic Therapy*: enable students to complete the professional requirements of their programs while providing them an opportunity to be exposed to research-oriented skills and careers.
- *Certificate in Immigration Studies and Minor in Immigration Studies*: respond to the rising level of immigration and the debate over immigration and diversity. The Certificate is directed at professionals already working in the field or individuals wishing to pursue a career in immigration while the Minor is directed at students already in Concordia programs.
- *Microprogramme en didactique et linguistique pour l'enseignement du français langue seconde*: responds to the demand for a 15-credit micro-program in teaching French as a second language which combines 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.
- *Graduate Certificate in Chemical Engineering, Graduate Diploma in Chemical Engineering, Master of Magisteriate in Applied Science (Chemical Engineering) and Doctor of Doctorate in Philosophy (Chemical Engineering)*: essentially complete the entire spectrum of core programs that a faculty of engineering should offer, following the establishment of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering in 2017.
- *Master of Magisteriate in Science (Nanoscience and Nanotechnology) / Master of Magisteriate in Applied Science (Nanoscience and Nanotechnology)*: is a first-time offering of a joint program

that involves the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science and the Faculty of Arts and Science as well as several Departments. It is an exciting initiative, which builds on the strengths and expertise in both Faculties and will position Concordia University at the forefront in nanoscience and nanotechnology.

- *Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Business Studies*: is designed for graduates from any discipline wishing to learn about quantitative aspects of business administration and comprises five courses already offered as part of the Graduate Diploma in Business Administration.
- *BComm Honours in Management*: 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.

ACADEMIC UNITS

Senate endorsed recommendations to the Board to modify the name of the following units:

- Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science to the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science
- Department of Exercise Science to the Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- On recommendation of the Council of the Faculty of Engineering of Computer Science and Steering Committee of Senate, Senate approved a proposal to recommend to the Board of

Governors that it amend the By-Laws to modify the composition of Senate to include a part-time faculty member from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science as a non-voting member of Senate.

- While Senate is the ultimate authority to grant and revoke degrees, Senate adopted a motion authorizing the University Registrar to cancel a degree in the case where a clerical error has occurred in order to provide for the awarding of the appropriate degree, in other words, the degree that should have been awarded in accordance with University regulations and the student's corrected record, with the proviso that any such degree cancellations be reported at the following Senate meeting.
- On recommendation of the University Librarian, Senate approved a proposal to grant Concordia librarians the designation of Librarian Emeritus/ Emeritae, upon retiring in good standing.
- Following a presentation by the CSU regarding student internships, a motion was adopted mandating the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee to evaluate internships at Concordia, make recommendations to standardize internships, review internal policies; and produce regular reports to Senate on its progress, within a two-year timeframe.

GENERAL

To deepen their knowledge and understanding of the role of administrative operations relative to academic life, Senators benefited from presentations on the following topics:

- [Student Success Centre](#)
- Establishment of the date of Reading Week
- Overview of the results of the National Survey of Student Engagement ([NSSE](#)) and academic advising initiatives

- State of [graduate studies](#)
- Student health and wellbeing review
- [Public scholars program](#), including presentations from two public scholars
- elearning at [eConcordia](#)

Senators also received an update on the [digital strategy](#) project in the Fall and were consulted in the Spring for input to identify top priorities and what a next-generation university will be to guide the Digital Strategy Working Group in defining its preliminary roadmap.

Pursuant to concerns expressed by members of the University community, discussions were held to provide the opportunity for Senators to share their comments and concerns in connection with the sexual misconduct allegations as well as to adopt a unified position with respect to the Quebec's government Bill 62 (*Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for requests for accommodations on religious grounds in certain bodies*).

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Senate for the 2017/2018 (as of May 1, 2018) included:

VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Alan Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor

Graham Carr, Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs

Christophe Guy, 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

Anne-Marie Croteau, Dean, John Molson School of Business

Paula Wood-Adams, Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Guylaine Beaudry, University Librarian

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Paul Allen

Pascale Biron

Patrice Blais (PT)

Saul Carliner

Christine DeWolf

Jill Didur

Marcie Frank

David Morris

Virginia Penhune

Harald Proppe

Daniel Salée

Francesca Scala

Matt Soar

Jean-Philippe Warren

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Brigitte Jaumard

Martin Pugh

Yousef Shayan

Sofière Tahar

Christopher Trueman

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Ricardo Dal Farra

Lorraine Oades (PT)

John Potvin

Marc Steinberg

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Reena Atanasiadis

Frank Crooks

Charles Draimin

Robert Soroka (PT)

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN

Vince Graziano

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Rory Blaisdell

Stephen Brown

Mikaela Clark-Gardner

Omar Riaz

Ali Sherra

Shaumia Suntharalingam

Julia Sutera Sardo

Leyla Sutherland

Sharon Yonan Renold

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Tevfik Karatop

Chiranjeevi Koduri

Mahesh Natarajan

Thufile Sirajudeen

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Philippe Beaugard, Chief Communications Officer

Denis Cossette, Chief Financial Officer

Roger Côté, Vice-President, Services

Isabel Dunnigan, Executive Director, Centre for Continuing Education

Bram Freedman, Vice-President, Advancement and External Relations

Frederica Jacobs, Secretary-General

Lisa Ostiguy, Deputy Provost

Daniel Therrien, University Registrar

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Joanne Beaudoin

Emmet Henchey

ENCS PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBER

Tom Hughes

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Danielle Tessier

