

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Held on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, at 4 p.m.
in Room GM 410 (Board of Governors Meeting Room)
located on the 4th floor of the Guy-Metro Building,
1550 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West
on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Governors: Norman Hébert jr., *Chair*, Helen Antoniou (*via telephone*), Patrice Blais, Jeff Bicher, Antoinette Bozac (*via telephone*), Ken Brooks, Stéphane Brutus, William Bukowski, Jarrett Carty, Gina. P. Cody, Daniel Cross, Rana Ghorayeb, Sophie Hough-Martin, Chaim Kuhnreich, Tony Loffreda, Frédérica Martin, *Vice-Chair*, Michael Novak, Georges Paulez, Philippe Pourreaux, Alan Shepard, *President and Vice-Chancellor*, Ted Stathopoulos

Alternate Governor: Eunbyul Park

Also attending: Philippe Beauregard, Sylvie Bourassa, Graham Carr, William Cheaib, Paul Chesser, Denis Cossette, Roger Côté, Christophe Guy, Frederica Jacobs, Lisa Ostiguy, Anne Whitelaw

Non-voting observer: Jonathan Wener, *Chancellor*

ABSENT

Governors: Françoise Bertrand, *Vice-Chair*, Adriana Embiricos, Kim Thuy Ly Thanh, Suzanne Sauvage

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Hébert called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m., congratulating Gina Cody for being named to the Ordre of Montréal, an honour which recognizes people who have made remarkable contributions to the City's development and reputation.

1.1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2019-3-1 *That the Agenda be approved, including the items on the Consent Agenda.*

CONSENT2. Adoption of March 13, 2019 Minutes

R-2019-3-2 *That the Minutes of the meeting of the Open Session of March 13, 2019 be approved.*

3. Collection and discontinuance of the collection of fee levies from all undergraduate students (Document BG-2019-3-D1)R-2019-3-3 World University Service of Canada

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a new fee levy of \$0.09 per credit from all undergraduate students, adjusted annually to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, in support of the World University Service of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Summer 2019 (2019/1) term, in accordance with the University's tuition, refund and withdrawal policy.

Association pour la Voix Étudiante au Québec (AVEQ)

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to discontinue the collection of a fee levy of \$3.61 per term from all undergraduate students, to support the Association pour la Voix Étudiante au Québec (AVEQ), effective for the Summer 2019 (2019/1) term.

4. Collection and discontinuance of the collection of fee levies from undergraduate students in the Faculty of Fine Arts (Document BG-2019-3-D2)R-2019-3-4 VAV Gallery

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect an increased fee levy of \$0.85 per credit (increase of \$0.05 per credit from \$0.80 per credit) from all undergraduate students in the Faculty of Fine Arts, for the VAV Gallery, to be implemented with registration for the Summer 2019 (2019/1) term, in accordance with the University's tuition, refund and withdrawal policy.

Concordia Undergraduate Journal of Art History (CUJAH)

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect an increased fee levy of \$0.24 per credit (increase of \$0.12 per credit from \$0.12 per credit) from all undergraduate students in the Faculty of Fine Arts, for the Concordia Undergraduate Journal of Art History (CUJAH), to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2019 (2019/2) term, in accordance with the University's tuition, refund and withdrawal policy.

Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante (ASSÉ)

That the Board of Governors authorize the University to discontinue the collection of a fee levy of \$1.50 per term from all undergraduate students in the Faculty of Fine Arts, to support the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante (ASSÉ), effective for the Fall 2019 (2019/2) term.

5. Requests for the use of the Concordia name (Document BG-2019-3-D3)

R-2019-3-5 That, subject to the conditions set out in the *Policy on the Use of Concordia University's Name, Logo and Related Insignia, and the Governance of its Visual Character and Digital Presence* (SG-4), the Board of Governors approve the following requests to use the Concordia name:

- **Concordia Student Parents Club**
- **Concordia University Taekwondo Club**

REGULAR

6. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

There was no business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.

7. President's report (Document BG-2019-3-D4)

The President noted a correction to the last paragraph of his written report, which should indicate that he has met with several hundred alumni, in lieu of over 100 as reported.

As complementary information, he urged Governors to attend Convocation which will be held in June. The list of honorary degree recipients who will be honored at those ceremonies will be made public in early May. He apprised the Board that the Indigenous Directions action plan was launched on April 4.

The President congratulated the Men's and Women's Hockey teams for making it to the national finals as well as the Men's Rugby team for winning the national finals. He also underlined some grant announcements, including Ursula Eicker who has been named as Concordia's new Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities, which comes with a \$10 million grant, and the government of Canada Future Skills Centre investment of \$2.5 million to support Concordia's new Future Skills Innovation Network.

Prof. Shepard thanked the members of the community who attended the end-of-term get-together held on both campuses, which provided him an opportunity to express his appreciation for their support throughout the years. He concluded by apprising Governors that the provincial government budget announcement in March includes deregulation of tuition fees for Cycle 1 and some Cycle 2 international students. The University's budget will be presented at the next Board meeting.

8. Presentation on concerns of international students regarding tuition fee deregulation (Document BG-2019-3-D5)

Ms. Hough-Martin began her presentation by debunking the three most common myths in relation to international students as follows:

- They should pay higher tuition since they do not pay taxes: International students contribute significantly to the local and national economies. They pay consumer taxes as well as income taxes if they employed in a Canadian job. A large number of them plan to apply for permanent residency. In 2014, Quebec international students spent about \$1.5 billion.
- International students are typically well off so they can afford to pay higher tuition: In fact, many of them report difficulties in finding part-time jobs, and financial aid is not always sufficient to cover their basic living expenses. A study conducted in 2018 by the Canadian Bureau for International Education revealed that almost half of international students feel very concerned about the status of their housing.
- International student pay less to attend university in Canada than they do in other countries: This is not true, since the average cost of tuition for international students in European countries is about \$12,297 a year, which is almost \$7,000 more a year than the average paid by international students attending Concordia.

Representing 18% of all students enrolled in for credit courses, international students are at the heart of the University's student life and contribute to the diversity that attracts many students to Concordia.

Ms. Hough-Martin referred to Article 26 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights featured in the Hall Building which states that higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit, making the point that this includes international students and that the Board and the University as a whole have a duty to uphold that value.

She argued that provincial funding is critical and that deregulation is the first step to defunding the entire system. She apprised the Board that a petition, now bearing the signature over 2,600 students, is asking the University to:

- ✓ publicly oppose the Quebec government's decision to privatize education for international students;
- ✓ encourage other universities to follow suit; and
- ✓ implement a tuition freeze, so that education can remain equally accessible.

In response to comments or queries, the following elements were clarified:

- Not all Cycle 2 students are subject to deregulation, only those in non-thesis Master's programs.
- The Board Chairs and Presidents have expressed their concerns and views to the government, and some of the mitigation partly results from those representations.
- The approval of tuition is included in the budget process. The Finance Committee will review and make a recommendation to the Board of Governors.

9. Other business

Responding to a comment from Me Blais, Ms. Hough-Martin noted that while the fee levy sought for the World University Service of Canada is administered by the CSU, the amount to be collected is set by each fee levy group.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors