



SENATE ANNUAL REPORT

2018–2019

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This annual report for Concordia University's Senate provides the highlights of activities for the 2018/2019 academic year.

The strong momentum Concordia carried straight through the year is reflected in four important measures.

Once again we secured impressive external research funding and some prestigious awards from major granting institutions. That sustained recognition for next-gen research contributed to our being ranked the top Canadian university under 50 years old by both QS and Times Higher Education (THE). This is the fourth year running that we have held QS's top position in Canada (and the top spot in North America for two years), while THE has ranked Concordia first in Canada for two consecutive years.

Our research and rankings performance continue to attract two groups at the heart of our mission: students and donors. While other institutions are feeling the effects of the current demographic dip among young adults, our applications and enrolment were up yet again this year. And generous donors continued to make gifts both large and small toward our Campaign for Concordia that demonstrate their desire to support what our university is, and what we are determined to achieve.

These terrific results attest to the work of our internal community and to our ambition to be the point of reference for next gen, not just in Canada, but globally. I offer my sincere thanks to all the members of Senate who have served this past year and for the year ahead. Your dedication is a critical aspect of what makes us a next-gen university.



Graham Carr
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

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

Seven regular meetings of Senate were held during the 2018/2019 academic year:

September 14, 2018	February 15, 2019
October 5, 2018	March 15, 2019
November 9, 2018	May 17, 2019
December 14, 2018	

The highlights of the main topics discussed during those meetings are summarized below. The full details are included in the [Minutes](#) which are posted on the Senate website.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

At the September meeting, Senate received an update on the [strategic directions](#), which included an overview of the accomplishments and highlights of initiatives undertaken during the last three years towards attaining the University's vision and ultimate objective of becoming a next-generation university.

RESEARCH

Senate approved Concordia University's Canada Research Chair (CRC) and Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Strategic Research Plan 2018-2023, required for the CRC nominations, the CFI-funded projects as well as other major institutional research grants and commitments.

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:

- *BFA Specialization in Electroacoustic Creative Practices and BFA Specialization in Electroacoustic Recording Arts*: Unique in North America, these programs bring together creative, technical and artistic aspects following an expressed need. They will allow for specificity and are adapting to the market by attracting students from trade schools who are seeking more breadth in their training.
- *Minor and Certificate in Geospatial Technologies*: Provide in-depth training enabling students to

handle technologies aligned with the market and respond to a growing demand from students for stand-alone programs focused on geospatial technologies. The Minor is geared toward current Concordia students while the Certificate is mainly intended for professionals interested in additional lifelong learning opportunities.

- *BSc Honours and BSc Specialization in Environmental and Sustainability Science*: Housed in three departments (Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Geography, Planning and Environment), these programs build on existing programs and expertise and prepare students to be leaders in the fields of environmental science and sustainability.
- *BSc Honours in Systems and Information Biology and BSc Specialization in Systems and Information Biology / BcompSc in Health and Life Sciences and BCompSc Honours in Health and Life Sciences*: Developed jointly by the Department of Biology in the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering in the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, these degrees cover the rapidly developing segment of Computational Biology in the Life Sciences. They will qualify students for jobs of the future, a future where the engineering of life will be an integral part of many industries, including those producing "green" fuels, chemicals and pharmaceuticals or inventing novel means of invasive diagnosis and genetic therapy.
- *Minor in Teaching English as a Second Language*: Allows current undergraduate students in other degree programs to develop expertise in Teaching English as a Second Language, which continues to be in high demand in Quebec, Canada, and internationally, while completing courses in their other programs.

POLICIES DOCUMENTS

- Following representations made by the undergraduate students, Senate established the *Ad Hoc Committee to Review Senate Eligibility Requirements*, whose mandate is to review current eligibility requirement for constituents to serve on Senate and its standing committees and bring a recommendation to Senate as soon as feasible.
- On recommendation of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, Senate recommended Board of Governors' approval of revisions to the [Membership of the Council of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science](#) to streamline and simplify the wording and change the status of the part-time faculty member from an observer to a voting member of Council.
- On recommendation of the John Molson School of Business, Senate recommended Board of Governors' approval of revisions to the [Membership of the Council of the John Molson School of Business](#) to update the membership as well as to streamline and simplify the wording.
- Senate was apprised of the revisions to the *Policy regarding Sexual Violence (PRVPA-3)*, approved by the Board of Governors in December 2018, which provided for updates to the University's stand-alone sexual violence policy to meet the Quebec government's requirements of *An Act to Prevent and Fight Sexual Violence in Higher Education Institutions (Bill 151)*. The updated policy seeks to use more accessible, survivor-centric language and provide clarity on process and support services available to the Concordia community.

GENERAL

The following individuals gave presentations throughout the year, in order to keep Senators apprised of ongoing projects and initiatives:

- Guylaine Beaudry: *Digital Strategy – Community Consultation Results*
- Claude Martel: *The Institute for Co-operative Education (ICE) – Update Year 2*
- William Lindsay: *The Indigenization-Decolonization of Universities: The Concordia University Action Plan*
- Sarah Mazhero and Safa Sheikh: *Fall Reading Week: Presentation and Proposal*
- Roger Côté: *Sustainability at Concordia: An Overview*
- Damon Matthews and Ali Sherra: *The Case for Fossil Fuel Divestment*

Responding to concerns expressed by members of the University community regarding the implications of the proposed [Bill 21](#) (An Act respecting the laicity of the State), and at the suggestion of the undergraduate students, Senate adopted a [resolution](#) reaffirming the University's unifying values..

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Senate for the 2018/2019 (as of May 1, 2019) included:

VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Alan Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor

Graham Carr, Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Christophe Guy, Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies

André Roy, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science

Amir Asif, Dean, Gina Cody School 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

Gylaine Beaudry, University Librarian

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Paul Allen

Leslie Barker (PT)

Pascale Biron

Christopher Brett

Christine DeWolf

Jill Didur

Marcie Frank

David Morris

Virginia Penhune

Daniel Salée

Francesca Scala

Matt Soar

Ronald Stern

Jean-Philippe Warren

GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ali Akgunduz

Brigitte Jaumard

Martin Pugh

Christopher Trueman

Radu Zmeureanu

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Sally Cooke (PT)

Ricardo Dal Farra

John Potvin

Marc Steinberg

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Reena Atanasiadis

Frank Crooks

Medhi Farashahi

Robert Soroka (PT)

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN

Vince Graziano

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Sarah Abou-Bakr

Sami Al-Hanbali

Rory Blaisdell

Mathilde Braems

Mikaela Clark-Gardner

Rim Hamila

Sophie Hough-Martin

Jean-Gabriel Lacombe

Sarah Mazhero

Eunbyul Park

Safa Sheikh

Ali Sherra

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Shaina Ali

Zenobia Pais

Rashmikka Sethu Madhavan

Nafisa Tabassum Jamal

NON-VOTING MEMBERS**EX-OFFICIO**

Philippe Beaugard, Chief
Communications Officer

Paul Chesser, Vice-President,
Advancement

Denis Cossette, Chief Financial
Officer

Roger Côté, Vice-President,
Services

Stéphanie De Celles,
University Registrar

Isabel Dunnigan, Executive
Director, Centre for Continuing
Education

Frederica Jacobs, Secretary-
General

Anne Whitelaw,
Deputy Provost

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND
SUPPORT STAFF**

Joanne Beaudoin

**ENCS PART-TIME
FACULTY MEMBER**

Tom Hughes

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Danielle Tessier

