

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

Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 4 p.m.
via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Governors: Helen Antoniou (Chair), Françoise Bertrand, Kenneth Brooks, Graham Carr (President and Vice-Chancellor), Jarrett Carty, Gary N. Chateram, Gina P. Cody, Selvadurai Dayanandan, Pat Di Lillo, Adriana Embiricos, Kim Fuller, Rana Ghorayeb, Caroline Jamet, Eduardo Malorni, Claudine Mangen, Frédérica Martin (Vice-Chair), Georges Paulez, Shalini Peruka, Philippe Pourreaux, Suzanne Sauvage, Robert Soroka, Ted Stathopoulos

Also attending: Philippe Beauregard, William Cheaib, Paul Chesser, Denis Cossette, Nadia Hardy, Frederica Jacobs, Karan Singh, Lisa Ostiguy, Anne Whitelaw, Paula Wood-Adams

ABSENT

Governors: Roy Cross, Odile Joannette, Claude Joli-Coeur

Alternate Governor: Lauren Perozek

Non-voting observer: Jonathan Wener

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and reminded the Governors that the Open Session meeting was being recorded and would be posted on the website for one week, following the meeting.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

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

R-2022-2-1 *That the Agenda be approved, including the items on the Consent Agenda.*

CONSENT

2. **Approval of January 27, 2022 Minutes**

R-2022-2-2 *That the Minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2022, be approved.*

3. **Environment Legislation and Health and Safety (EHS) Compliance Q4 and 2021 Report** (Document BG-2022-2-D1)

This report was provided for information.

4. **Appointment of the Ombuds Office Appraisal Committee** (Document BG-2022-2-D2)

R-2022-2-3 *That in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Ombuds Office, the Board of Governors appoint the Ombuds Office Appraisal Committee with the following membership:*

- *Frederica Jacobs, Secretary-General and General Counsel – Chair*
- *Melodie Sullivan, Senior Legal Counsel, University Secretariat*
- *Aisha Topsakal, Director, Office of Rights and Responsibilities*
- *Carolina Willsher, Associate Vice-President, Human Resources*
- *Darren Dumoulin, Interim Director, Campus Security and Emergency Management*
- *Philippe Caignon, Associate Dean, Student Academic Services, Faculty of Arts and Sciences*
- *Amir Aghdam, Gina Cody School and Academic Code Administrator, School of Graduate Studies*
- *Mrinalini, Graduate Student*
- *Sandra Mouafo, Undergraduate Student*

Special Liaison to the Committee

- *Helen Antoniou, Chair of the Board of Governors*

Secretary of the Appraisal Committee

- *Andrea Renaud, Interim Director, University Secretariat*

REGULAR

5. **Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda**

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

6. President's report (Document BG-2022-2-D3)

As complementary information to his written report, G. Carr's remarks are summarized as follows:

- G. Carr began by informing the Board that universities do not often take public positions on geopolitical matters, but the Russian invasion of Ukraine had appalled the world for its gross violation of territorial sovereignty, its indiscriminate assault on civilians and the scale of the refugee crisis it had caused. He shared that the University had reached out directly to the few Ukrainian students at Concordia and more generally to other members of our community (faculty, staff and students), including from neighboring countries to provide support and access to services. He noted that the University is providing support to students from the Russian Federation and Belarus as well.
- G. Carr reported that the University was also working to expedite admission requests from potential Ukrainian students who had reached out to the University at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He also noted that the University's Academic Visitor program would allow the University to help Ukrainian academics who may be at risk and seeking the opportunity to come to Canada, and that the Refugee Center, which is a student fee levy group, is another resource to support Ukrainians students who may be applying for status in Canada.
- The President informed the Board that, when specific cases arise, the University works with the governments in Québec and Ottawa and through the emergency programs offered by the various funding agencies.
- In terms of COVID-related update, G. Carr informed the Board that except for approximately 140 faculty members who had received permission to teach remotely, and the approximate 11% courses that were being delivered through eConcordia, the University is back at delivering the rest of the courses in person. He informed that the University was in the waning half of the semester, and thus the attention had turned to how campus life can be re-animated by supporting conferences, lectures, performances and club activities which have essentially been non-existent for the past two years. He noted that government directives on public health protocols continue to evolve and relax prior requirements. He confirmed that the University will not be changing the current protocols in place, including the mask mandate.
- The President turned to academic and research news and referenced an article in *La Presse*, on Québec universities graduation rates. The data mentioned in the article was measured on a six-year cycle. Generally, there had been a serious decline across Québec affecting the vast majority of universities, however G. Carr was pleased to note that Concordia had bucked that trend, experiencing a 0.7% growth, the highest of any university in Montréal. While it may be premature to speculate on the reasons of this decline, *La Presse* suggested that this could be owing to the effects of COVID on student retention. G. Carr confirmed to the Board that the 0.7% growth was positive and aligned with the outstanding graduation rates of the University in 2020 and 2021.

- G. Carr informed the Board that Concordia was first for a fifth consecutive year in the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings. Concordia was also number one in North America in the QS World University Rankings of the Top 50 Under 50 for a third consecutive year.
- The President shared the announcement that Concordia will co-lead the National Cybersecurity Consortium (NCC) and the Cyber Security Innovation Network, a project supported by \$76.4 million in federal funding over four years. This was going to be the largest single research initiative of which the University has been part. G. Carr congratulated Dean Debbabi, who had been instrumental to this initiative and P. Wood-Adams who will serve as the inaugural chair of the oversight board.
- He reported that the University received a Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) gold ranking from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.
- G. Carr informed the Board of the announcement of the creation of an Institute for Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) which involves researchers from all four faculties focused on three hubs: AI for health; AI for emerging technologies in next generation cities; and AI for society. The President informed the Board that the Québec Minister E. Caire of the *Ministère de la Cybersécurité et du Numérique* be attending and speaking at the launch in person.
- The President noted to the Board of the two major academic searches that were underway, one for the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies and the other for the first Dean of the School of Health.
- Lastly, the President congratulated the University's athletic teams for their success.

7. Governance and Ethics Committee recommendation regarding amendments to the By-Laws (Document BG-2022-2-D4)

F. Bertrand introduced the item.

F. Jacobs explained that the changes to the By-Laws were to take into account the new School of Health, update the mandates of some of the Board Standing Committees and modernize practices. She apprised the Board that following the recommendation of the Governance and Ethics Committee, a summary of the articles of the Concordia University Act referred to in the By-Laws be reproduced in same; therefore, a summary of the relevant articles is now included in footnotes.

Several Governors raised questions about the changes to the By-Laws, including the modification to remove the Senate Finance Committee.

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

R-2022-2-4 That, on recommendation of the Governance and Ethics Committee, the Board of Governors approve the amendments to the Concordia University By-Laws.

8. Other business

There was no business not included on the Agenda.

9. Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Shelina Houssenaly

Shelina Houssenaly
Secretary of the Board of Governors