

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

Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 4 p.m.
Room GM 410 (Board of Governors meeting room) SGW Campus

PRESENT

Governors: Helen Antoniou (Chair), Graham Carr (President and Vice-Chancellor), Jarrett Carty (attended remotely), Gary N. Chateram, Gina P. Cody (attended remotely), Roy Cross, Selvadurai Dayanandan, Pat Di Lillo, Kim Fuller, Caroline Jamet, Claude Joli-Cœur (attended remotely), Eduardo Malorni, Claudine Mangen (attended remotely), Frédérica Martin (Vice-Chair), Georges Paulez (attended remotely), Shalini Peruka, Philippe Pourreaux, Robert Soroka (attended remotely), Ted Stathopoulos

Non-voting observer: Jonathan Wener

Also attending: Philippe Beauregard (attended remotely), Sylvie Bourassa (attended remotely), William Cheaib, Paul Chesser, Denis Cossette (attended remotely), Frederica Jacobs (attended remotely), Karan Singh, Lisa Ostiguy (attended remotely), Anne Whitelaw, Paula Wood-Adams (attended remotely)

ABSENT

Governors: Françoise Bertrand, Kenneth Brooks, Rana Ghorayeb, Odile Joannette, Suzanne Sauvage

Alternate Governor: Lauren Perozek

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 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. The Chair congratulated the Women's Hockey team who won the national gold, a first in 23 years. The Chair also shared with the Governors that the first in-person convocation ceremonies since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic will take place in June.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

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

R-2022-3-1 That the Agenda be approved, including the items on the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT

2. Approval of March 17, 2022 Minutes

R-2022-3-2 That the Minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2022, be approved.

3. Request for the use of Concordia name (Document BD-2022-3-D1)

R-2022-3-3 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 request to use the Concordia name:

- *Concordia Running Club.*

4. Finance Committee recommendation regarding the revisions to the Policy on Hospitality, Meetings and Events (CFO-10) (Document BG-2022-3-D2)

R-2022-3-4 That, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Policy on Hospitality, Meetings and Events (CFO-10).

REGULAR

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

G. Carr informed the Board of a matter which had been brought up at the meeting of the Board on March 17, 2022. As part of the modifications to the University's By-Laws, owing to changes brought about by the establishment of the new School of Health, the opportunity was taken, as is always the case, to also make some other modifications to the By-Laws. One such change was to remove the Senate Finance Committee (SFC), whose activities have been suspended since 2019. These changes were brought before the Board at its meeting of March 2022. It was however noted at the Board meeting that as the SFC was a Senate committee, it would be necessary that the discontinuation be approved by Senate first, before seeking Board approval.

G. Carr provided some background on the SFC. In 2019, the SFC itself recommended to Senate that the activities of the SFC be discontinued. The rationale for this recommendation was that, although the main role of the SFC was to provide comments on the costing related to new programs brought forward to Senate, in 2019, a new process had been implemented in relation to the review and approval of costing related to new programs. Senate had agreed with the recommendation because by the time a matter came before the SFC for

consideration, it had already gone through multiple levels of reviews and approvals (including by the relevant departments, units and the office of the Chief Financial Officer), thus making the SFC's work somewhat redundant. Further, the timeline of review and approval did not adequately coincide with the implementation of new programs. In 2019, it was felt that given the new process of review and approval of costing, the SFC's work be suspended. However, in 2019, the SFC was not formally abolished by Senate. In including the discontinuation of the SFC as part of the amendment to the By-Laws, a good faith error was made, whereby the specific amendment related to the SFC's discontinuation was directly brought to the Board for approval. G. Carr explained further that this good faith error would be corrected, and the recommendation of the discontinuation of the SFC would be brought before Senate at its May 2022 meeting for approval and subsequently be recommended to the Board.

6. **President's report** (Document BG-2022-3-D3)

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

- G. Carr began by echoing the Chair's congratulations to the Women's Hockey team for their gold medal win.
- G. Carr also expressed happiness at being able to see a lot of the Governors in person.
- He informed the Board that yesterday was the last day of classes for the winter semester, and that this had been a challenging time for everyone. He expressed gratitude to faculty, staff, students and everyone for their continued hard work during these challenging times and for being able to deliver the best semester possible.
- He noted that the University community had not remained unaffected by the new B2 variant, and that faculty, staff and students were continually being asked to self-report. G. Carr informed the Board that he did not have specific data points to offer, but most transmissions were caused by social activities. He informed the Board that everyone on campus would continue to be required to wear masks according to Public Health protocols and the university's assessment of the situation.
- He noted that various activities had been happening on campus, including a week ago when the University hosted the head of Hydro Québec, S. Brochu, who was in conversation with the University's jurist in residence M. Minc. G. Carr also noted the terrific event held in 4th Space, which acknowledged the work of the Task Force on Anti-Black Racism, and another event that launched the Barry Lorenzetti Center for Women and Entrepreneurship. On Friday of the previous week, students from Club of Automotive Engineers held their first major gathering on the 9th floor of the MB building.

- G. Carr was glad to confirm to the Board that the in-person convocation would go ahead, as scheduled for early June. There were quite a few honorary doctoral candidates who will be awarded their degrees and it would be good to have them in person.
- On a budget update front, G. Carr informed the Governors that a letter from the government of Québec had been received on April 2, 2022, wherein the University was informed that after completing its review the government had decided to compensate the universities for COVID-19 related expenses. G. Carr noted to the Board that the University had kept a vigorous log of all expenses, which had been approved by the Board's Finance Committee. He thanked D. Cossette and D. Therrien for their work both during this period and for continued discussions with the government.
- G. Carr reminded the Board that the University had experienced a 4% growth in registrations in 2020-21, but the Government did not compensate this growth through adjustments to the University's operational grant. However, on March 31, 2022, the government decided to compensate for the audited expenses the University had declared relative to the growth. Given the compensation that had been received from the government, the University was able to record a modest surplus of \$2M.
- G. Carr reminded the Governors of the presentation that had been made in relation to the new legislation around academic freedom. He noted that the universities unanimously remained of the opinion that the law was not necessary, and that universities had adequate measures, policies and procedures in place to ensure the protection of academic freedom. He mentioned that it remains to be seen whether the proposed law will be brought forward for decision before the Assemblée nationale adjourns and election occurs.
- G. Carr informed the Board that in addition to recipients of the Rhodes and Shwartzman Scholarships, Concordia now also has its first McCall MacBain Scholar: Concordia student Sage Duquette. He congratulated L. Mitchell and everyone at Student Services for their work, given this amazing achievement.
- Lastly, G. Carr shared with the Board a metric that was released on LinkedIn, where they listed the top ten Canadian universities that have been attracting talent in the technology industries and Concordia was fourth after the Universities of Waterloo, Toronto and British Columbia, and there were no other Québec universities in the top 10.

7. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

8. Adjournment

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

Shelina Houssenaly

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Secretary of the Board of Governors