

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
AND OF THE CORPORATION**

Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 4 p.m.
Room GM 410 (Board of Governors meeting room)
SGW Campus

PRESENT

Governors:

Helen Antoniou (C)	Pat Di Lillo	Catherine Loubier (zoom)
Ken Brooks (zoom)	Adriana Embiricos	Harley Martin
Graham Carr (P and Vice-C)	Kim Fuller (zoom)	Paul John Murdoch
Jarett Carty	Rana Ghorayeb (zoom)	Duraichelvan Raju
Gary N. Chateram (zoom)	Caroline Jamet	Rahul Ravi
Daniel Cross	Claude Joli-Coeur (V.C)	Robert Soroka
Selvadurai Dayanandan (V.C)	(zoom) Shoshana Kalfon	Ted Stathopoulos
		Cathy Wong (zoom)
		Roula Zaarour

Also attending:

Philippe Beauregard	Paul Chesser	Frederica Jacobs
Dominique Bérubé	Michael Di Grappa	Pascal Lebel
William Cheaib	Nadia Hardy	Anne Whitelaw

Non-voting observers: Gina Cody (zoom), Jonathan Wener (zoom)

ABSENT

Governors:

Nassim Boutalbi (Alternate) Philippe Pourreaux

LEGEND:

C: Chair

P and Vice-C: President and Vice Chancellor

V.C: Vice Chair

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

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

R-2024-3-1 *That the Agenda be approved, including the items on the Consent Agenda.*

CONSENT

2. Approval of February 8, 2024 Minutes

R-2024-3-2 *That the Minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2024, be approved.*

3. Ratification of nominations to Board Standing Committees

(Document BG-2024-3-D1/CORP-2024-2-D1)

R-2024-3-3 *That, Roula Zaarour be appointed to serve on the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors.*

That, Beverley LeBlanc be appointed as the part-time employee group representative to the Part-Time Employee Benefits Committee representing CUCEPTFU, for a two-year term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

R-2024-3-4 *That, Duraichelvan Raju, representing the graduate students, be reappointed to the Board of Governors and the Corporation for a term beginning on January 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2024*

4. Administrative Tribunal Pool nominations (Document BG-2024-3-D2)

R-2024-3-5 *That, the appointment of Vidya Khan as a member of the Administrative and Support Staff Tribunal Pool for a term beginning on September 1, 2024, and ending on August 31, 2026 be approved by the Board of Governors.*

5. Ratification of Committee membership :

5.1 Advisory Search Committee for the Vice President Research, Innovation and Impact (Document BG-2024-3-D3)

R-2024-3-6 *That the Board of Governors ratify the membership of the Advisory Search Committee for the Vice President Research, Innovation and Impact, as per the Policy on Senior Administrative Appointments (BD-5).*

5.2 Evaluation Committee for the Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts
(Document BG-2024-3-D4)

R-2024-3-7 That, the Board of Governors ratify the membership of the Evaluation Committee for the renewal of the Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, as per the Policy on Employment and Remuneration of the Academic Deans and the University Librarian (BD-17).

6. Appointment of external member of the Board to the Evaluation Committee for renewal of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science (Document BG-2024-3-D5)

R-2024-3-8 That, following nomination by the Executive Committee of the external member of the Board of Governors to the following committee, such nomination be ratified by the Board of Governors: Roula Zaarour - Evaluation Committee for the renewal of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science.

7. Finance Committee recommendation: Executive MBA refresh fee change
(Document BG-2024-3-D6)

R-2024-3-9 That, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the increase in fees of the revised Executive MBA program from the current amount of \$75,000 to \$85,000 Canadian dollars, as detailed in the attached documentation.

8. Student fee levies:

8.1 Collection of undergraduate student fee levies (Document BG-2024-3-D7A)

R-2024-3-10 That the Board of Governors authorize Concordia University to collect a CultivAction Coopérative de Solidarité fee levy of \$0.35 per credit from Faculty of Arts and Science undergraduate students only, to be implemented with registration for Summer 2024 term, in accordance with the University's tuition, refund and withdrawal policy.

8.2 Suspension of Coop Bookstore fee levy (Document BG-2024-3-D7B)

R-2024-3-11 That the Board of Governors authorize Concordia University to suspend the collection of the Coop Bookstore fee levy collected by the University for the summer 2024 term.

9. Report on compliance with environmental legislation and health and safety regulations (Q4-2023 and full 2023 Report) (Document BG-2024-3-D8)

This report was presented for information purposes only.

REGULAR

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

There was no other business to bring before the meeting that was not included on the Agenda.

11. President's report (Document BG-2024-3-D9)

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

- Dr. Carr began by highlighting the news of the Concordia Stingers women's ice hockey team winning the U SPORTS national women's hockey championship. This marks a second title in three years and on a third consecutive championship appearance. The team bested the Toronto Varsity Blues 3-1 in Saskatoon to claim the Golden Path trophy. Jessymaude Drapeau, a third year forward with the team, was named the tournament's most valuable player, and was joined by teammates Léonie Philbert and Jordan Verbeek as three of the six tournament all-stars. Dr. Carr congratulated Julie Chu and the coaching staff. The team was honored by the Canadiens at the Bell Centre last week.
- In early March, Concordia undergraduate student Selma Herrero Lepers finished with a fourth prize, awarded by the jury, which came with a cash prize of \$1000, and also won the *Prix du public*, worth \$500, at the 2024 edition of the French-language public-speaking competition *Délie ta langue!*. Concordia is the only English-language institution to participate in the Université de Montréal-organized event which is sponsored in part by the *Office québécois de la langue française* and was attended by Ministers P. Déry and J-F. Roberge.
- In the last week of February, a Concordia team placed third out of nine competing universities at the *Jeux de la communication*. The annual contest challenges teams from francophone and bilingual universities in areas such as journalism, publicity, public relations and rhetoric.
- And in another great moment for Québécois culture, Fine Arts graduate Vincent René-Lortie was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Live Action Short Film category for his work *Invincible*.
- Dr. Carr also congratulated the student organizers of the sixteenth John Molson Undergraduate Case Competition which took place during reading week. The competition is the largest international undergraduate case competition and this year the John Molson School of Business team placed third in the competition. University of British Columbia won the competition and University of California Berkley placed second.
- Earlier in February, another group of students organized the successful eleventh edition of the Engineering and Commerce Case Competition (ENGCOMM), which is unique in the world.
- The previous evening the University hosted two outstanding speakers on campus, Karen Hogan, the Auditor-General of Canada (an alumna of Concordia), and Nicholas Kasirer, one of Canada's Supreme Court Justices, who was on campus as part of the speaker series organized by the University's Jurist-in-residence, Morton Minc.

- Judge Minc will also be the chair of the President's Advisory Group, announced two weeks ago. This group has been conceived as a brainstorming group rather than a governance body and its membership will include 12 other prominent Canadians, with the mandate of bringing fresh perspectives from outside academia on the myriad of issues confronting the higher education sector and on opportunities for the University. The first meeting of the group is tentatively scheduled for May 2024.
- The University also announced the creation of the STRIVE Task Force: Standing Together against Racism and Identity-based Violence, which will be co-led by two faculty members: Rachel Berger, Associate Dean in the School of Graduate Studies; and Rhilla Khalid, professor in Design and Computation Arts), together with Lisa White, Executive Director of the Equity Office. The task force will have six working groups: Campus Engagement; Campus Climate; Antisemitism; Anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia; Anti-Asian racism; transphobia.
- Dr. Carr elaborated that a task force approach was chosen because, in the past, the University has seen success with task forces addressing sexual violence and anti-Black racism, both in terms of engaging community conversations and also developing actionable recommendations. He acknowledged that, particularly in light of the incidents in October 2023, the University community must work together to tackle issues of the climate and belonging on campus. He expressed hope that the outcome of the task force will be beneficial to the University and serve as a model, an example for other universities to follow.
- He thanked R. Berger, R. Khalid and L. White for agreeing to shoulder this responsibility, and also thanked Nadia Hardy, who he noted worked tirelessly, to put the task force together.
- Dr. Carr provided an update on phase three of registrations, following applications and acceptances. This third phase is the time when students are asked to confirm that Concordia is their chosen institution, which is still not finalized until registration over the summer and in September. He noted that overall, across all categories of students, there is 6.2% decline in confirmations in comparison to the number of confirmations received at this time last year. This number included a 31% decline for students from high school outside of Québec and a 28% decline in transfers, which is essentially also students from outside of Québec. Notwithstanding the entrance scholarships that the University made available to students from the rest of Canada, the forecast is that the impact of the government tuition policy has been damaging for the University and, given the trend, the expectation is to welcome 200+ fewer students from the rest of Canada as compared to the previous year.
- International student numbers were down 4% for undergraduate and 16% for graduate, mostly linked to drop in applications from India to Canada.
- There was still some positive news and a slight uptick in numbers from Québec CEGEPS had been seen (less than 1%) and a more significant increase in confirmations

for graduate research programs from Québec and the rest of Canada. This is over 170 post-graduate students, and these students all qualify for government funding.

- Dr. Carr concluded that the University will be seeing a decline of nearly 300 students from the previous year and the trend of declining enrolment will continue. He closed with a huge thank you to all recruiters, faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly to encourage students to come to Concordia.

12. Other business

There was no other business brought before the Open Session.

13. Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of the Board of Governors