

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

Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 4 p.m.
Room GM 410 (Board of Governors meeting room), SGW Campus
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Helen Antoniou (C)	Shahir Guindi	Vanessa Massot (remote)
Theresa Bianco	Claude Joli-Coeur (V.C)	Miranda Melfi (remote)
Graham Carr (P and Vice-C)	Shoshana Kalfon (remote)	Geneviève Morin
Gary N. Chateram (remote)	Mehdi Kharazmi	Christine Panet-Raymond
Pat Di Lillo	Martin Lefebvre	Rahul Ravi
Kim Fuller	Catherine Loubier (remote)	Robert Soroka (remote)
		Ted Stathopoulos

Alternate: Ali Salman

Non-Voting Observer: Gina Cody (remote)

Also attending:

Philippe Beauregard	Effrosyni Diamantoudi	Frederica Jacobs (remote)
William Cheaib	Michael Di Grappa	Pascal Lebel
Paul Chesser	Tim Evans	Kathleen Lizé

ABSENT

Governors:

Ken Brooks	Adriana Embiricos	Paul John Murdoch
Jarrett Carty (V.C)	Rana Ghorayeb	

LEGEND:

C: Chair

P and Vice-C: President and Vice Chancellor

V.C: Vice Chair

Remote: joined via Zoom/Teams

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

1.1. Approval of the Agenda

R-2026-4-1 *That the Agenda be approved as presented.*

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approval of February 5, 2026 Minutes

R-2026-4-2 *That the Minutes of the meeting of Open Session from February 5, 2026 be approved.*

3. Report on compliance with environmental legislation and health and safety regulations (Q4-2025 and full 2025 Report) (Document BG-2026-4-D1)

This item was for information only.

4. Finance Committee recommendations:

4.1 Administrative Fee (Document BG-2026-4-D2)

R-2026-4-3 *Whereas the current Administrative fee being charged to all students is \$12.99 per credit; and*

Whereas the government has allowed the University to increase this fee up to 3% for 2026-27;

Be it resolved:

That, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the collection of an increased Administrative fee of \$13.38 per credit from all students, to be implemented with registration for the fall 2026 (2262) term, in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.

4.2 Technology Infrastructure Fee (Document BG-2026-4-D3)

R-2026-4-4 *Whereas the current Technology Infrastructure fee being charged to all students is \$6.13 per credit; and*

Whereas the government has allowed the University to increase this fee up to 3% for 2026-27;

Be it resolved:

That, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the collection of an increased Technology Infrastructure fee of \$6.31 per credit from all

students, to be implemented with registration for the fall 2026 (2262) term, in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.

5. 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.

6. President's report (Document BG-2026-4-D4)

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

- Dr. Carr began by noting some recent student accomplishments:
 - Last fall the Board of Governors met Clara Delisle, a John Molson School of Business (JMSB) undergraduate student who is involved in the JMSB undergraduate case competitions. Recently, two teams from JMSB competed and won silver medals at prestigious international case competitions at University of Navarra, Spain and in Belgrade, Serbia.
 - Five students from the Public Policy and Public Administration Master's Degree program in Political Science won the National Public Administration Case Competition in Ottawa. This win resulted in Concordia becoming the first university to win the top prize two years running since the competition was created 15 years ago.
 - The University's engineering and business students hosted the EngComm case competition in February, attracting teams from across Canada and the US, including UC Berkeley and UT Austin, Maastricht University in Europe and King Faud University in Saudi Arabia.
 - For the prestigious Trudeau Foundation scholarships, the final 32 students who are in the running for the scholarships include three Concordia PhD students: Célia Bensiali-Hadaud, Guillaume Jabbour and Hee Jin (Heige) Kim. The 32 finalists have been selected from an original applicant pool of 700. Dr. Carr thanked the School of Graduate studies for supporting the three finalists from Concordia with the application process.
 - At the Olympic and ParaOlympic games, Anton Jacobs-Webb (Mechanical Engineering) came home with a silver medal in sled hockey. While Marion Thénault (Aerospace Engineering), Emma Nonnenmacher (Psychology), and

Zachary Lagha (Contemporary Dance) did not win medals, they competed brilliantly. Two former Concordia students, Caroline Ouellet and Julien Brisebois, were assistant coach and general manager respectively of the silver medal winning women's and men's hockey teams.

- At the end of the varsity sport season, three Stinger athletes, each of whom is graduating, received awards: Women's basketball player Serena Tchida Youmbi Lucrece (Web Design) was named QC/RSEQ women's basketball player of the year; Men's hockey player Simon Lavigne (Finance) became the first Stinger ever to be named the top defense-man in Canada, as well as being named player of the year in the combined Ontario East/Quebec League; and Women's hockey player Jessymaude Drapeau (Psychology, Recreation and Leisure Studies), was named top player in Canada, marking the first time that a Concordia athlete received this award since 2000.
- Last weekend the Stingers women's hockey team competed in their fifth consecutive national championship and, for the fourth time in five years, played in the gold medal game, where they won silver. Competing in five consecutive national championship games is an extraordinary record, unique among Canadian universities.
- Dr. Carr noted that the women's hockey team perennially have the highest GPA of all our varsity teams (e.g. their goalie Jordyn Verbeek has a 4.27 GPA in Business Tehcnology Management and French as electives). They serve as fantastic ambassadors for the Univerisy, with credit to their coach, the former captain of the US Olympic women's hockey team, Julie Chu. J. Chu was named coach of the year in Canada by USports.
- Dr. Carr and P. Chesser attended the women's hockey championships last week in Waterloo. The players' parents and families came from across Canada to attend the playoffs, and it was great to hear many of them expressing gratitude for the culture and academic opportunities that their daughters have experienced studying at Concordia. Some parents whose daughters had previously played hockey at universities in the United States remarked on the superior quality and higher demands of undergrad programs at Concordia.
- Dr. Carr then shared that after 16 years, Concordia undergraduates voted in favor of a fee levy to support our Recreation and Athletics programs. Student support through fee levies has historically been critical to the development of recreation and athletics facilities and programs at universities across Canada. He extended thanks to Board member Vanessa Massot, who lent her support to the ballot, as well as to Lauren Farley, the Interim Director of Recreation and Athletics, who presented the case to the

CSU Council. He underscored that athletic facilities need funding and this fee levy comes at a critical time.

- The University will be welcoming Isabelle Blais at the end of March as the new associate vice-president, Human Resources. I. Blais is currently vice-president of legal affairs, human resources and secretary-general at the *Commission de la construction du Québec*. She previously served as head of Human Resources at Vidéotron, and as head of labor relations at Québecor. She will succeed Carolina Willsher, who will be retiring from Concordia after 17 years at the University.
- On April 17th, the University will award an honorary doctorate to Gina McCarthy, former White House National Climate Advisor, at a special conferral ceremony. G. McCarthy has had an extraordinary career in academia and government, in public health and environment. The University will be celebrating her achievements because they align so well with all that we are doing in the climate action sphere, and at a moment when sustainability champions are facing unprecedented obstacles in other countries.
- On the tuition litigation dossier, Dr. Carr noted that, as already discussed at a previous Board meeting, the University decided not to launch a new lawsuit contesting the Québec government's increase of Rest of Canada student tuition fees. The government's right to set tuition can't be contested, the issue being if the set amount is justifiable. The government complied with the letter of the judgment, but in the University's view, not the spirit.
- The University's assessment of the 'legality' of the new justification for the tuition increase was complicated because even before the government provided its latest justification, Concordia's co-plaintiff, McGill, had already increased Rest of Canada tuition beyond the government's \$12K threshold and is now charging out-of-province students \$14K in business and engineering. Thus, on the balance of factors, the University decided not to take on the expense of a new court case. Instead, the University wishes to start afresh with the government, reaffirming Concordia's role and contribution to society and the province's economy.
- Discussions are continuing with the government to provide increased French-language learning opportunities for students to better enable them to choose to stay in Québec after graduation and the University has begun new initiatives to support this goal. As an example, in the EV Building today, there is a job fair that aims to link international engineering students with employers and organizations in the regions through the program *Réussir en français* in an effort to help students increase their

employability and make the choice to stay in the province while helping regions address professional labor shortages.

- Next week, Dr. Carr and his chief of staff, William Cheaib will join Minister Biron on a higher education mission to France to announce some new bilateral partnerships and to raise Concordia's visibility as a destination university for French students. As of date, Concordia will be the only anglophone university participating in the mission.
- An example of the positive impact that the University has on the *rayonnement* of Quebec is all the publicity that focused on Montreal following the awarding of an Oscar to the National Film Board for the animation film, *The Girl Who Cried Pearls*. The co-creator of the film, Maciek Szczerbowski, is a BFA 94 graduate in scenography. Seven other Concordia graduates from different domains in fine arts worked on the film as well.
- In February, the University launched two new undergraduate programs in cybersecurity: a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Cybersecurity and a Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) in Cybersecurity. While the approval for the programs was only received two weeks before the March 1st application deadline, the programs have already received 400 applications. Dr. Carr thanked Dean Debbabi and his team who designed the programs, and P. Lebel, who relentlessly lobbied the minister's office for approval, and the communications team who got the word out to prospective students on social media.
- Fall 2026 will be the first intake of students to B Eng in Chemical and Materials Engineering. New admissions are at 136 in Chemical and Materials Engineering and significantly, 80 of those admitted are women. The University has been committed to increased gender equity in disciplines where historically women have been underrepresented.
- Dr. Carr spoke of the work that E. Diamantoudi, as Interim Provost, has undertaken and facilitated with departments and faculties to encourage them to adapt existing and develop new course and program offerings to meet new needs and capitalize on new realities. Since E. Diamantoudi's department visits, the Office of the Provost has received more than 30 new program ideas, which are being assessed.
- Dr. Carr concluded his remarks by sharing updates from the provincial budget that had been announced the week before. A lot of details are still pending, and while the university network had very low expectations, it was a surprise to see an increase in the overall grant while maintaining reduced level of funding for special grants for

engineering. Details of individual allocations are forthcoming, but there is some positive expectation that the University will receive marginal benefits.

- However, the reality for the University is that the financial impact of the budget measures is likely to be extremely limited and the University faces a major budget deficit. The work will need to continue to meet the obligations of the *plan de redressement*.

7. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the Open Session.

8. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of the Board of Governors