

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION  
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE**

Held on Friday, September 18, 2020  
immediately following the Closed Session  
via Zoom Video Conferencing

**PRESENT**

Voting members: Graham Carr (*Chair*); Adewunmi Ajike; Ali Akgunduz; Nicholas Bailey; Leslie Barker; Elizabeth Bloodgood; Catherine Bolton; Sally Cooke; Frank Crooks; Anne-Marie Croteau; Selvadurai Dayanandan; Mourad Debbabi; Alex De Visscher; Effrosyni Diamantoudi; Linda Dyer; Mary Esteve; Medhi Farashahi; Ariela Freedman; Annie Gérin; Vince Graziano; Fiona Harrison-Roberts; Safwan Hye; Hannah Jamet-Lange; Isaiah Joyner; Samantha Leger; Colin Long; Sarah Mazhero; Christopher Moore; Catherine Mulligan; Virginia Penhune; Gilles Pelsherbe; Pascale Sicotte; Reza Soleymani; Robert Soroka; Ron Stern; Alexander Stojda; Kelly Thompson; Guylaine Vaillancourt; Anne Whitelaw; Paula Wood-Adams; Radu Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beauregard; Paul Chesser; Roger Côté; Denis Cossette; Stéphanie de Celles; Isabel Dunnigan; Nadia Hardy; Tom Hughes; Candace Jacobs; Frederica Jacobs

**ABSENT**

Voting members: Shimon Amir; Matthew Barker; Guylaine Beaudry; Christopher Brett; James Hanna; Helena Osana; Jean-Philippe Warren; Natalia Whiteley

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m.

**1.1 Adoption of the Agenda**

R-2020-4-4     *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

## 1.2 Adoption of May 22, 2020 Minutes

R-2020-4-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 22, 2020.*

## 2. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

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

## 3. President's remarks

Dr. Carr welcomed Senators, including new Deans Gérin and Sicotte.

He underlined some notable events:

- the opening of the new Applied Science Incubator on the Loyola Campus;
- the launch on September 10 of the Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate;
- today is the kickoff of the week-long Shuffle 31, the annual walkathon to raise funds for student scholarships and bursaries;
- the receipt of \$1.6 million from the federal Canadian Research Continuity Emergency Fund to support research personnel who were affected in the first 12 weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- the final touches are being brought to the mandate and action plan of the Task Force on Black Lives Matter.

Dr. Carr reported the sad news that Charles (Chuck) Bertrand died last week. Dr. Bertrand had served the University in a number of roles, including interim President in 1994. He was a beloved colleague and member of the community.

He also conveyed the bittersweet news that today was Roger Côté's last Senate meeting. The latter is retiring after 39 years in a number of roles. Dr. Carr expressed his deep appreciation for Mr. Côté's stellar work. He announced that effective October 1, Michael Di Grappa has been appointed Vice-President, Services and Sustainability.

Dr. Carr welcomed the government's decision to create the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur (MES) as a separate ministry, headed by Minister Danielle McCann and a seasoned Deputy Minister, Bernard Matte.

He informed the Board that Summer enrolment was 15% higher than last year with the lowest drop-out rate. Incredibly, Co-op placed 721 stages versus 504 last Summer, the overwhelming majority were for work-study done online. With respect to Fall enrolment, at this point the headcount is roughly on par with last Fall. However, there is slippage at the Professional Master's Degree level which will affect tuition revenue that cannot necessarily be made up by undergraduate and PhD enrolments. We will have a clearer picture once the DNE date will have passed.

The President spoke of the huge challenges facing faculty and staff and the colossal efforts to prepare remote delivery for the Fall term in the environment of telework, including the relentless pace of the online environment. He also spoke of the management of the return to campus of some activities, including the reopening of 200 research labs, faculty offices and the libraries, on a restricted basis, while noting that the Fall varsity sports season has been cancelled.

All decisions are driven by the health of the Concordia community but also the urban community. While the decision about the Winter term will be made in the coming weeks, in concert with other Montreal universities, unions have been advised to inform their personnel to prepare for an online Winter term.

**4. Academic update** (Document US-2020-4-D2)

This document is provided for information.

**CONSENT**

**5. Committee appointments** (Document US-2020-4-D3)

*R-2020-4-6 That the committee appointments be approved.*

**REGULAR**

**6. Annual report from the Ombuds Office** (Document US-2020-4-D4)

Ombudsperson Amy Fish presented the highlights of the annual report, including some key statistics. To illustrate the type of concerns and issues the Ombuds Office deals with on a regular basis, Ms. Fish provided three examples. She was pleased to inform the Board that she had encountered no major problems throughout the year and underlined the University's commitment to openness and fairness.

**7. Annual report from the Office of Rights and Responsibilities** (Document US-2020-4-D5)

Director and Senior Advisor Lisa White summarized the mandate of the Office of Rights and Responsibilities (ORR) and presented the highlights of the annual report, including some key statistics. To illustrate the type of situations that ORR deals with on a regular basis, Ms. White shared three narratives.

**8. Annual report of the academic hearing panel** (Document US-2020-4-D6)

Melodie Sullivan, Senior Legal Counsel, explained the process that leads to a hearing and presented the highlights of the report, which is provided annually for information purposes in accordance with the requirements set out in Article 94 of the *Academic Code of Conduct* and responded to questions.

## 9. Question period

Prof. Freedman queried about the ventilation of space on campus and expressed a concern about the pace of working from home for those who are caregivers. Dr. Carr acknowledged that there is a disproportionate impact on different categories of individuals because of their responsibilities. For that reason, faculty members are encouraged to record their classes. The gradual reopening of library spaces can provide some space as an alternative to the home environment. HR is trying to better support staff and faculty to facilitate work from home and is looking into different initiatives, including encouraging Zoom-free Fridays.

With respect to outdoor spaces, Dr. Carr said that the University is not yet looking at next Spring or Summer. So far, few students have taken up the opportunity to be on campus. Mr. Côté noted that access remains limited for now.

Responding to Ms. Mazhero's concern that some faculty are not recording their class content, Dr. Whitelaw said that the importance of recording class content has been emphasized to all faculty members, the majority of whom are doing so. She suggested that students with concerns that lectures are not being recorded bring this up with their professor.

Mr. Joyner asked if it would be under Senate's purview to consider the future of remote learning. Dr. Carr made the point that Concordia will never become fully online but that some opportunities could be beneficial. As is currently the case, with regard to new courses or programs – as opposed to new online sections of existing courses -- this discussion would first occur at the department or unit level where curriculum and program development is initiated prior to going to Faculty Councils and the Academic Programs Committee (APC). Dr. Whitelaw added that a sustained conversation on teaching and learning has come out of the last few months. A working group was established in the Spring to address and adapt to the immediate challenges. She is considering keeping this as a permanent committee to maintain and engage the discussion.

## 10. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

## 11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.



Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate