

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

Held on Friday, January 24, 2020, at 2 p.m.  
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room  
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

**PRESENT**

Voting members: Graham Carr (*Chair*); Ali Akgunduz; Amir Asif; Leslie Barker; Matthew Barker; Guylaine Beaudry; Pascale Biron; Catherine Bolton; Christopher Brett; Sue Callender; Sally Cooke; Frank Crooks; Anne-Marie Croteau; Ricardo Dal Farra; Alex De Visscher; Rebecca Duclos; Linda Dyer; Medhi Farashahi; Ariela Freedman; Vince Graziano; Christophe Guy; Jarrad Hass; Chris Kalafatidis; Esther Morand; Helena Osana; Karan Pande; Gilles Peslherbe; Colin Philip; John Potvin; Martin Pugh; Patrick Quinn; Marguerite Rolland; André Roy; Timir Baran Roy; Bayan Abu Safieh; Reza Soleymani; Robert Soroka; Marc Steinberg; Ron Stern; Alex Stojda; Marlena Valenta; Victoria Videira; Jean-Philippe Warren; Anne Whitelaw; Paula Wood-Adams; Radu Zmeureanu

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

**ABSENT**

Voting members: Bakry Alsaieq; Shimon Amir; Maryam Bagherzadeh; Elizabeth Bloodgood; Matt Soar; Elizabeth Tasong

Non-voting members: Nadia Hardy; Candace Jacobs

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

**1.1 Approval of Agenda**

R-2020-1-1     *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

## 1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 13, 2019

R-2020-1-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 13, 2019, be approved.*

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

Following a request made at the last meeting that the territorial acknowledgment be read at the beginning of each Senate meeting, the President discussed this matter with Steering Committee and also met with Manon Tremblay, Senior Director, Indigenous Directions. He indicated that the Indigenous Directions Action Plan is looking into establishing a protocol for the ongoing use of the territorial acknowledgment and that we will refer to that protocol once it will have been established.

## 3. President's remarks

The highlights of the President's remarks are summarized as follows:

- The crash of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 had a profound and devastating effect on the Concordia community. Two newlyweds and recent GCS graduates lost their lives, returning from Iran to Montreal. Dr. Carr thanked members of the community who held a vigil and a memorial service in honour of the victims as well as Vice-President Chesser and his team for establishing a merit-based recruitment memorial fund for newly-admitted Iranian students.
- With respect to the coronavirus outbreak in China, Concordia's Health Services and Concordia International are monitoring the situation with the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the University is in touch with its partner institutions in China.
- Dr. Carr spoke of his attendance last week at a conference hosted by Universities Canada, an advocacy group for the 96 Canadian universities. It will be making pre-budget submissions on behalf of its members to the federal government in five key areas: international research collaboration, greening research infrastructure, knowledge transfer, university cybersecurity, and indigenous student access and success.
- Concordia is extending its presence in the community by launching a new Creative Living Lab at the Cavendish Mall, through an initiative to combat social isolation among older adults from engAGE, Concordia's Centre for Research on Aging.
- He underlined student led activities and projects, including the Molson School MBA International Case Competition, which attracted teams from 16 countries, as well as the Concordia Hackathon, organized by Gina Cody School students and which will kick off at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning in Room H 110.
- Three members of the Concordia community have received the Order of Canada: Hana Gartner, Caroline Ouellette and Lynn Zimmer.

- The President concluded his remarks by apprising Senators that Open House will be held on Saturday, February 15, on both campuses.

**4. Academic update** (Document US-2020-1-D1)

As complementary information to her written report, Dr. Whitelaw noted that the First Voices Week, a celebration of indigenous diversity, will be held from February 3 to 7. She also apprised Senators that her email account had been hacked and not to respond to any email coming from her requesting the recipient to purchase gift cards on her behalf. She urged anyone who has or does receive such an email to report it immediately to IITS.

**CONSENT**

**5. Committee appointments** (Document US-2020-1-D2)

R-2020-1-3 *That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2020-1-D2, be approved.*

**6. Academic Programs Committee - Report and recommendations** (Document US-2020-1-D3)

**6.1 Undergraduate curriculum proposals - Faculty of Arts and Science**

**6.1.1 Certificate in Arts and Science** (Document US-2020-1-D4)

**6.1.2 Department of Applied Human Sciences** (Document US-2020-1-D5)

**6.1.3 School of Irish Studies** (Document US-2020-1-D6)

**6.1.4 Department of Education** (Document US-2020-1-D7)

**6.1.5 Simone de Beauvoir Institute** (Document US-2020-1-D8)

R-2020-1-4 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Science be approved.*

**6.2 Undergraduate curriculum proposal- Faculty of Fine Arts - Department of Design and Computation Arts** (Document US-2020-1-D9)

R-2020-1-5 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Fine Arts be approved.*

**6.3 Graduate curriculum proposals - Faculty of Arts and Science**

**6.3.1 Department of Biology** (Document US-2020-1-D10)

**6.3.2 Department of Education** (Document US-2020-1-D11)

R-2020-1-6 *That the graduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Science be approved.*

**6.4 Graduate curriculum proposals - Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science**

**6.4.1 Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering** (Document US-2020-1-D12)

**6.4.2 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering** (Documents US-2020-1-D13 and D14)

R-2020-1-7 *That the graduate curriculum proposals in the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science be approved.*

### REGULAR

**7. Undergraduate curriculum proposal – Faculty of Arts and Science - Department of Journalism – New Minor in Science Journalism** (Document US-2020-1-D15)

Dean Roy and the Chair of the Department of Journalism, David Secko, were pleased to present this new Minor which will offer an opportunity for students to develop their skills to effectively communicate science to the general public. It is unique and the first such program in Canada.

R-2020-1-8 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the new Minor in Science Journalism, in the Department of Journalism, Faculty of Arts and Science, approved.*

**8. Presentation on Time and Space**

Dr. Whitelaw prefaced her presentation by noting that Concordia is not the only University facing scheduling and space challenges, similar projects having been undertaken at Waterloo, Stanford and Yale. There is a recognition that historical scheduling patterns are not helping students graduate. She explained that this is not the first time that Concordia has looked at this issue. A number of years ago a similar project had been undertaken but not brought to fruition because it had been done without sufficient consultation.

The objective of the Time and Space project is to help students achieve academic success and complete their degrees as simply as possible, foster a culture of next-generation teaching practices delivery options, improve space capacity and establish policies on class scheduling more aligned with pedagogical goals.

Dr. Whitelaw gave a snapshot of the current state of class scheduling, resulting in students sometimes having trouble establishing a viable schedule because of class time conflicts which, in turn, affect their ability to complete their degrees in a timely manner because classes are often not available.

She conveyed the principles of the project. The primary focus is on student success, which will be achieved by developing best practices. The intention is to harmonize, not standardize. This is not “one size fits all”, since faculties and disciplines have different requirements and needs. Time patterns must be guided by pedagogical aims, not inherited practice.

Dr. Whitelaw made the point that input from students, instructors and staff members is vital. She apprised Senate of the work conducted so far since the formation of a working group in May 2018. She noted that preliminary meetings have been held with CUFA, CUPFA, in addition to the ongoing conversations with the Time and Space working group members. A Time and Space website is currently in development with information about the project and the working group. This website will host a survey for students and faculty to complete as well as opportunities for all members of the Concordia community to post their views on how to address scheduling and better usage of space. Student focus groups will be held in the Fall, based on the feedback received via the website.

Dr. Whitelaw concluded the presentation by noting that the desired outcome of the consultations is to be able to validate assumptions to better understand the needs of the students. Further to her presentation, she responded to questions and comments.

**9. Question period**

No questions were asked.

**10. Other business**

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate