



SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020

CONCORDIA

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This annual report for Concordia University's Senate provides the highlights of activities for the 2019/2020 academic year – a year that proceeded smoothly for the most part, but will nevertheless forever be remembered for the global crises that marked its final months.

By many measures – rankings, enrolment, and research funding – Concordia continued its momentum this year. I'm very pleased with several measures we passed at Senate – important EDI plans, recognizing new, groundbreaking research centres and establishing the Baccalaureate by Accumulation, a key step in our expansion of micro-credentialing. I'm equally proud of the commitments we made to sustainability and sustainable investment, which further entrenched our reputation as leaders of change on this front so critical to our planet's future.

But I'm proudest of how the Concordia community – faculty, staff and students alike – rallied to adapt to uncertain and rapidly evolving circumstances so quickly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Migrating all courses online in just 10 days in March was a monumental effort – and that was just the beginning. We overcame countless obstacles together, resulting in our largest graduating class in the university's history in June.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the reality for our university – and indeed for all of society – in radical ways for the foreseeable future and, in ways we can't yet fully conceive, forever. The situation is a true test of Concordia's next-gen reputation, and the Senate's role of helping illuminate the path before us through robust and collegial debate is critical to our success. I offer my sincere thanks to all the members of Senate who have served this past year and for the year ahead.



Graham Carr
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

MANDATE

Senate is responsible for the academic governance of the University, including matters related to research, faculties, departments, libraries, programs and courses, academic standards, regulations, policies and procedures, and the granting of degrees, diplomas and certificates (excluding honorary degrees). The functions and powers of Senate are listed in [Section 13](#) of the By-Laws.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The work of Senate is supported by its standing committees which regularly report to Senate and bring forward recommendations as required. A full description of each committee's composition and mandate is included in the [Membership and Functions of Senate Standing Committees](#).

STEERING COMMITTEE

Reviews Senate Agendas and ensures that the documentation forwarded to Senate is appropriate and in a form permitting effective debate.

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE (APPC)

Studies and evaluates the implications of all proposals regarding academic development and priorities, supports the academic planning function of the University and makes reports and recommendations to Senate on academic planning and academic priorities.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (APC)

Coordinates and makes recommendations to Senate regarding credit programs and undergraduate academic regulations.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Studies and makes recommendations to Senate concerning the development, administration, guidelines and policies regarding research and the support thereof.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Acts as an advisory body to the University Librarian and Senate in connection with library objectives, policies, and budget and the development of its services and collections.

SPECIAL GRADUATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

Solicits and reviews nominations and recommends recipients to Senate for the eight special graduation awards.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS COMMITTEE

Assesses and reviews nominations and recommends to Senate the awarding of the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus..

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Oversees and enforces the application of the *Code of Ethics and Conduct Applicable to Members of Senate and Members of Committees Established by Senate (US-1)*.

MEETINGS

Seven regular meetings of Senate were held during the 2019/2020 academic year:

September 13, 2019	January 24, 2020
October 11, 2019	April 24, 2020
November 8, 2019	May 22, 2020
December 13, 2019	

The highlights of the main topics discussed during those meetings are summarized below. The full details are included in the [Minutes](#) which are posted on the Senate website.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A good part of the April and May Senate meetings was devoted to updates by the President and the senior leadership team regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the work, initiatives and actions undertaken to address the challenges in relation thereto.

RESEARCH

- Senate approved the [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan for the Canada Research Chairs Programs](#). The initial version of the plan had been submitted to Senate in January 2018 but had not been approved by the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Secretariat. The plan was subsequently revised and resubmitted in September 2019 and has received CRC approval
- The following research centres were granted University-recognized status in accordance with the *Policy on Research Units and Infrastructure Platforms (VPRGS-8)*:
 - Indigenous Futures Research Centre ([IFRC](#))
 - Security Research Centre ([SRC](#))
 - Thermal Spray and Surface Engineering Research Centre ([TSSE](#))

CURRICULUM CHANGES

While Senate approved numerous undergraduate curriculum changes and regulations as well as numerous graduate curriculum changes throughout the year, of special note is the approval of the following new programs:

- *Baccalaureate by Accumulation*: Senate approved the framework to create a 90-credit bachelor's degree earned by combining three 30-credit certificates of study. Such micro-credentials are gaining ground in the changing workforce; several Quebec universities have offered this option for many years. The *Bac par cumul avec appellation*

(BACCAP) constitutes a defined pathway that most resembles a conventional undergraduate degree, in that it is in a defined area, the degree is named, and the pathway for the student is laid out.

- *Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy*: This 15-credit certificate will be offered in the Summer term as part of the Faculty of Fine Arts' long-term plan to develop and offer graduate-level certificates with a focus on professional development, skills training and experiential learning opportunities. This certificate, the first of its kind in Canada and North America, will provide clinicians with the training and the tools to effectively intervene with children who have suffered complex trauma.
- *Minor in Science Journalism*: This new Minor offers 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.

POLICIES AND PROCESSES

- *The Ad Hoc Committee to Review Senate Eligibility Requirements* submitted its report and recommendation in connection with modifications to the eligibility requirements for undergraduate and graduate students serving on Senate and its standing committees. Senate approved the modifications and recommended Board approval of the amendments to article 64 b) of the [University By-Laws](#), which outline those requirements. The revisions substantially preserve the in-program path while adding a new path for eligibility, not based on current academic standing but on acquired academic experience, and allow a limited number of independent undergraduate students to serve on Senate.

- Amendments to the *Policy on Conflict of Interest in Research (VPRGS-5)* and the *Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research (VPRGS-12)* were approved in order to ensure consistency with the recently revised *Policy on Conflict of Interest (BD-4)*.
- The powers of Senate, set out in article 71 of the [University By-Laws](#), provide that Senate determines the conferment of degrees at convocation. On recommendation of Steering Committee and in keeping with practices of several other Canadian universities, Senate adopted a resolution delegating to the Provost and Vice-President, Academic the approval of the graduation list, as submitted by the University Registrar following approval of Faculty and School Councils of their lists. The University Registrar will provide to Senate a written report detailing the graduation statistics following each convocation ceremony.

GENERAL

The following individuals gave presentations throughout the year, in order to keep Senators apprised of ongoing projects and initiatives:

- Graham Carr, Howard Davidson and Denis Cossette: *Continuing on our sustainable investment journey*, during which an announcement was made regarding the three following important commitments as the next step in the University's journey within five years:
 - o A reduction to zero of the University's investments in the coal, oil and gas sectors;
 - o A commitment to 100% sustainable investments; and
 - o A plan to double the portion of Concordia University Foundation's portfolio devoted to impact investment from the current 5% to 10%.
- Amy Fish and Lisa White presented the highlights of the *Ombuds Office annual report* and the *Office of Rights and Responsibilities annual report*, respectively.
- Anne Whitelaw: *Update on Fall Reading Break*, which presented two potential approaches with respect to adding a fall reading week to be implemented not before Fall 2021.
- Anne Whitelaw and Stéphanie de Celles: *Time and Space @ Concordia - Addressing scheduling and space challenges to support student success*.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Senate for the 2019/2020 (as of May 1, 2020) included:

VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Graham Carr, President and Vice-Chancellor

Anne Whitelaw, Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Paula Wood-Adams, Interim Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies

André Roy, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science

Mourad Debbabi, Interim Dean, Gina Cody School of Engineering & Computer Science

Rebecca Duclos, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

Anne-Marie Croteau, Dean, John Molson School of Business

Faye Diamantoudi, Interim Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Guyline Beaudry, University Librarian

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Shimon Amir

Leslie Barker (PT)

Matthew Barker

Pascale Biron

Elizabeth Bloodgood

Cathy Bolton

Christopher Brett

Ariela Freedman

Helena Osana

Gilles Peslherbe

Matt Soar

Ronald Stern

Jean-Philippe Warren

GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ali Akgunduz

Alex De Visscher

Martin Pugh

Reza Soleymani

Radu Zmeureanu

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Sally Cooke (PT)

Ricardo Dal Farra

John Potvin

Marc Steinberg

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Frank Crooks

Linda Dyer

Medhi Farashahi

Robert Soroka (PT)

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN

Vince Graziano

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Bakry Alsaieq

Sue Callender

Jarrad Haas

Chris Kalafatidis

Esther Morand

Colin Philip

Patrick Quinn

Marguerite Rolland

Maha Siddiqui

Alex Stojda

Marlena Valenta

Victoria Videira

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Maryam Bagherzadeh

Karan Pande

Timir Baran Roy

Bayan Abu Safieh

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Philippe Beaugregard, Chief Communications Officer

Paul Chesser, Vice-President, Advancement

Denis Cossette, Chief Financial Officer

Roger Côté, Vice-President, Services

Stéphanie De Celles, University Registrar

Isabel Dunnigan, Executive Director, Centre for Continuing Education

Frederica Jacobs, Secretary-General

Nadia Hardy, Interim Deputy Provost

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Joanne Beaudoin

Candace Jacobs

GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBER

Tom Hughes

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Danielle Tessier

