

A blue-tinted photograph of a university campus. In the background, a modern building with a grid-like facade is visible, with the word "Concordia" written vertically on its side. In the foreground, a courtyard features several trees, concrete benches, and people walking or sitting. A red diagonal line is in the top left, and a white diagonal line is in the bottom right.

SENATE ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022

CONCORDIA

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This annual report for Concordia University's Senate provides the highlights of this governing body's activities for the 2021-22 academic year. It was not a straightforward academic year as the university adapted to the changing public health situation and COVID-19 advisories from the Government of Quebec. Navigating the gradual return to in-person classes, services and work beginning in fall 2021, but particularly after the Omicron setback early in 2022, was no small undertaking for our students, faculty or staff. We should all be deeply appreciative of the collective effort to deliver our mission with respect and compassion—a demonstration of Concordia's willingness to go beyond.

That challenging context is all the more reason to applaud Concordia's enviable position in national and global rankings. For the third straight year QS ranked Concordia as the top university less than 50 years old in North America, while Times Higher Education ranked us top in Canada for the fifth straight year. We continue to advance our Sustainability Action Plan and social justice initiatives to decolonize our university, advance Indigenous directions and combat anti-Black racism.

These and other commitments saw us maintain our place among the world's top 100 universities in the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings — placing fifth in the world in the Sustainable Cities and Communities category, 20th for Climate Action and 48th for our work toward Reduced Inequalities.

We recruited 35 new tenure-track faculty in the academic year 2021-22, and 43 are scheduled to join in 2022-23. And the university continued to support many great research initiatives, including the launch of our transdisciplinary Applied AI Institute in March.

Consistent with the demographic trend in Quebec, we saw a decline in new enrollments from CEGEPs, but accepted more students from elsewhere in Canada and the world. Many senators participated in our virtual Open Houses, which are important recruitment tools in an increasingly competitive environment. The university also secured a number of important philanthropic donations to support student success and research and our record-setting Campaign for Concordia continues apace.

Despite operating exclusively in a Zoom environment, I applaud the Senate's determination to efficiently carry out its business through committees and general meetings, all the while endeavoring to maintain the collegial environment that is key to our governance. I offer my sincere thanks to all the members of Senate who have served this past year and to those who will serve for the year ahead.



Graham Carr
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](#).

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.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITI AND DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIAN EMERITI COMMITTEE

Assesses and reviews nominations and recommends to Senate the awarding of the titles of Distinguished Professor Emeriti and Distinguished Librarian Emeriti.

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)*.

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.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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

SPECIAL GRADUATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

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

STEERING COMMITTEE

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

MEETINGS

Eight regular meetings of Senate were held during the 2021-22 academic year:

September 17, 2021	January 21, 2022
October 8, 2021	March 18, 2022
November 12, 2021	April 8, 2022
December 10, 2021	May 20, 2022

All Senate meetings were held virtually, and Senate standing committee held virtual or hybrid meetings.

The highlights of the main topics discussed during those meetings are summarized below.

POLICIES AND PROCESSES

- In order to streamline the process for the conferral of the status of Distinguished Professor Emeriti and Distinguished Librarian Emeriti, a new *Policy on the Conferral of the Title of Distinguished Professor Emeriti or Distinguished Librarian Emeriti (US-3)* was adopted. In conjunction with the development of the new Policy, the opportunity was taken to make minor amendments to the membership and the mandate of the Distinguished Professor Emeriti and Distinguished Librarian Emeriti Committee, formerly entitled Distinguished Professor Emeriti Committee.
- Senate recommended to the Board of Governors the approval of the revisions to the *Policy on the Establishment of Tribunal Hearing Pools (BD-6)*. Since the pandemic, there has been an increase in the number of academic incidents, and a backlog has resulted in dealing with these cases. Revisions to the Policy were made to increase the number of undergraduate and graduate students nominated to the Student Tribunal Pool. In addition, the breakdown of faculty members in the Faculty Tribunal Pool was updated.
- Further to the approval of the new School of Health in the spring of 2021, modifications to the *Membership and Powers of the Faculty and School Councils*, formerly entitled *Membership and Powers of the Faculty Councils and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies*, were required to include the School of Health. Faculty Councils and the Council of the School of Graduate Studies took the opportunity of

this review to make additional modifications to ensure alignment with current practices and harmonization of the text. Senate approved the modifications and recommended Board approval.

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 undergraduate curriculum proposal regarding the new Minor in Quantitative Finance and Insurance. This minor was created in collaboration with the Finance Department (JMSB).

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Senate Finance Committee (SFC) was originally established in the mid-1990s as an ad hoc committee. Over the past years, the primary mission of the SFC had been to assess the costing of new programs. In the last two years, in order to improve the approval process and timeline, the university has taken steps to achieve a consistent, university-wide approach to program review and costing by piloting a coordinated model involving sign-off from the faculty budget offices and the Chief Financial Officer. Since 2019, letters of intent for new programs include a budget that is overseen jointly by the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Provost. This allowed a more systematic budget process with greater financial probity than was previously the case. For these reasons, in 2019, the SFC assessed that its operations appeared to be redundant and recommended that Senate reconsider the need for such a committee. Since then, the SFC's operations were suspended.

As the new process has proven to be more effective and efficient, Senate approved the abolition of the Senate Finance Committee at its May 2022 meeting.

GENERAL

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

- Melodie Sullivan delivered a presentation on the Annual Academic Hearing Report.
- Michael Di Grappa and Anne Whitelaw presented the highlights of the Future Concordia initiative.
- Hannah Jamet-Lange and Eduardo Malorni updated Senate on the return-to-campus student experience.
- Amy Fish and Aisha Topsakal presented the highlights of the [Ombuds Office Annual Report](#) and the [Office of Rights and Responsibilities Annual Report](#), respectively.
- Hannah Jamet-Lange, Eduardo Malorni and Anne Whitelaw delivered a progress report of the working group on Pass/DISC (Pass/Fail).
- Hannah Jamet-Lange, Celeste Trianon and Lisa White delivered presentations regarding Bill 2, *An Act respecting family law reform with regard to filiation and amending the Civil Code in relation to personality rights and civil status*.
- Lisa Ostiguy and Anne Whitelaw provided an update on the fall 2023 12-week term implementation.
- Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi informed Senate on the Graduate Billing Reform for Course-based Masters.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Senate for the 2021-22 (as of May 1, 2022) included:

VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Graham Carr, President and Vice-Chancellor

Anne Whitelaw, Provost and Vice-President, Academic

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

Pascale Sicotte, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

Mourad Debbabi, Dean, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science

Annie Gérin, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

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

Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi, Interim Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Guylaine Beaudry, University Librarian

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Shimon Amir

Leslie Barker (PT)

Elizabeth Bloodgood

Cathy Bolton

Selvadurai Dayanandan

Mary Esteve

Ariela Freedman

Moshe Lander

Peter Morden

Rosemary Reilly

Craig Townsend

Jean-Philippe Warren

GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ciprian Alecsandru

Alex De Visscher

Abdelwahab Hamou-Lhadj

Reza Soleymani

Radu Zmeureanu

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Joanna Berzowska

Sally Cooke (PT)

Mitch Mitchell

Guylaine Vaillancourt

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Alexandra Dawson

Linda Dyer

Medhi Farashahi

Robert Soroka (PT)

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN

Larry Deck

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Carolynn Boulanger

Lovina Angela Brown

Boutaina Chafi

Queenie Hui Jing Chen

Demetre Christopoulos

Marina Ghali

Nicole Gorel

Hannah Jamet-Lange

Eduardo Malorni

Prady Cassandra Ngouma Wa

Deeva Wazir

Shaina Willison

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Lourdu Reddy Allam

Riya Dutta

Duraichelvan Raju

Satinder Pal Singh

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Philippe Beauregard, Chief Communications Officer

Paul Chesser, Vice-President, Advancement

Denis Cossette, Chief Financial Officer

Stéphanie de Celles, University Registrar

Michael Di Grappa, Vice-President, Services and Sustainability

Isabel Dunnigan, Executive Director, Centre for Continuing Education

Nadia Hardy, Interim Deputy Provost

Frederica Jacobs, Secretary-General

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Candace Jacobs

Émilie Martel

GCS PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBER

Tom Hughes

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Shelina Houssenaly

