

SENATE ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

CONCORDIA

WELCOME TO CONCORDIA

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Annual Report of the Senate of Concordia University provides a snapshot of important events and accomplishments from the 2024-25 academic year. During this period, Concordia reached new heights in teaching, research, innovation and, as a result, international reputation.

For example, in “Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities 2024” by *Research Infosource*, Concordia surged to \$129 million in total research funding, an increase of 47.6% over the previous year. The University now ranks 21st overall, fifth among comprehensive Universities and ahead of peer institutions like Carleton, York and UQAM.

Furthermore, in 2024 the Governor General recognized two outstanding Concordia students for their academic achievements. Ginath Yuh Yisa, Department of Geography, Urban Planning and Environment, earned the Governor General’s Academic Gold Medal as the top-performing graduate student in Canada. Philip Smith, Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics, received the Governor General’s Academic Silver Medal as the top-performing undergraduate.

Finally, the University co-hosted the 92nd Acfas Conference with the École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS). As the largest multidisciplinary gathering of its kind in the Francophonie, Acfas was an excellent way to strengthen Concordia’s position as an anglophone university that is deeply integrated in the cultural and scientific ecosystems of Québec.

At the same time, our community had to confront critical challenges, ranging from budgetary to geopolitical, which will require concerted, university-wide responses in the years ahead. Concordia faculty, including many members of Senate, provided invaluable leadership in helping tackle these and other issues — as formal or informal advisors to the administration, in departmental and faculty roles, and every day in their classrooms, labs and studios. In addition, researchers and scholars are playing a major role in [STRIVE: Standing Together against Racism and Identity-based Violence](#), a task force aimed at addressing some of the complex social questions we’re facing as a community.

Thank you to all senators — incoming, returning and outgoing — for your steadfast commitment to Concordia’s efforts to prioritize accessibility, inclusivity and excellence in all areas of our academic mission.



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)

Reviews planning priorities and provides input as appropriate, 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 that permits effective debate.

MEETINGS

Six regular meetings of Senate were held during the 2024-25 academic year:

October 11, 2024	February 7, 2025
November 8, 2024	March 21, 2025
December 13, 2024	May 16, 2025

All Senate meetings were held in person, with the option to join remotely.

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

POLICIES AND PROCESSES

Revisions and updates were made to these policies as part of periodic update and revision of policies: *Revisions to the Policy on Research Chairs (VPRGS-7)* to the new *Policies on External* ([VPRII-14](#)) and *Internal Research Chairs* ([VPRII-15](#))

PROGRAM AND OTHER APPROVALS:

Senate approved the following new programs in 2024-25:

Minor in Ethics and Values: The Department of Philosophy's 24-credit Minor in Ethics and Values seeks to give students a well-rounded and systematic training in ethics and adjacent philosophical fields.

Minor in Black and African Diaspora Studies in the Canadian Context: The Faculty of Arts and Science created a 24-credit program, which draws attention to the specific context of the development of Black Studies in the Canadian academy and the related socio-historical circumstances that define Blackness in Canada. Developed in response to the report from the President's Task Force on Anti Black Racism, this Program will allow students to acquire knowledge on Black Studies related to global Black communities' political, intellectual, artistic and activist contributions.

Microprogram in Sustainability Principles:

The Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability created the new 15-credit undergraduate program that can be taken entirely in-person or as a combination of in-person and online courses. This cross-disciplinary microprogram is aimed at attracting individuals interested in adding sustainability literacy to their professional or personal portfolios without completing an entire degree, and to students right out of CEGEP who are not yet willing to commit to an undergraduate degree program.

Fast-track: Microprogram in Innovation Mindset:

A new 9-credit undergraduate program that will be housed in the Interdisciplinary Studies section of the calendar in the Faculty of Arts and Science. The Program emerges from the work of Dr. Davidson in the Innovation Lab, in the approach and pedagogical material developed, and in adapting the learning objectives following the interactions with trainees. The Program consists of learning about models, concepts, methods and strategies for innovation.

MEMBERSHIP AND POWERS OF FACULTY AND SCHOOL COUNCILS:

Updates were also made to the [Membership and Powers of the Faculty and School Councils](#) of some of the Senate committees, which updates were approved by Senate on May 16, 2025.

APPROVAL OF COMMITMENT TO OPEN SCIENCE AND OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Senate approved a commitment to commitment to Open Science and Open Scholarship principles thereof align with the University's [2023-2028 Strategic Research Plan](#).

OTHER REPORTS:

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

Amy Fish and Aisha Topsakal presented the highlights of the [Ombuds Office Annual Report](#) and the [Office of Rights and Responsibilities Annual Report](#), respectively.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Senate for 2024-25
(as of May 1, 2025) included:

VOTING MEMBERS

Ex-officio

Graham Carr
President and Vice-Chancellor

Anne Whitelaw
Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Tim Evans
Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Impact

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

Véronique Pepin
Interim Dean, School of Health

Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi
Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Amy Buckland
University Librarian

Faculty of Arts and Science

Matthew Barker
Beverly Best
Theresa Bianco
Patrice Blais (PT)
Ariela Freedman
Steven Henle
Moshe Lander
Maggie McDonnell
David Morris
Xavier Ottenwaelder
Mireille Paquet
Rosemary Reilly
Anna Sheftel

Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science

Sabine Bergler
Catherine Mulligan
Ramin Sedaghati
Ahmed Soliman
Sofiène Tahar

Faculty of Fine Arts

Robin Chemtov (PT)
Roy Cross
Bonnie Harnden
Christopher Moore

John Molson School of Business

Fabienne Cyrius (PT)
Alexandra Dawson
Ian Rakita
Kamila Sobol

Professional Librarian

Andrea Harland

Undergraduate Students

Mohamad Abdallah
Angelica Antonakopoulos
Gabriela Aragon
Ryan Assaker
Maria Chitoroaga
Niraj Dayanandan
Mar Ibrahim
Asli Isaaq
Mia Kennedy
Michael Lecchino
Vanessa Massot
Kareem Rahaman

Graduate Students

Duraipaandiyaan Anbumani Poongothai
Arnav Ishaan
Mehdi Kharazmi
Ayyappan Subramanian

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

*Associate Vice-President, Professional Education and
Valorisation du français*

Nadia Hardy

Deputy Provost

Frederica Jacobs

Secretary-General and General Counsel

Administrative and Support Staff representatives

Stefana Nita

Olivia Ward

GCS part-time faculty member

Carlos Santana

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Karan Singh

GOVERNANCE TEAM

Caroline Leamon



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