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CHAIR’S MESSAGE

This annual report for Concordia University’s Senate provides the highlights of activities for the 2016/2017 academic year.

Once again, Concordia placed among the top universities under 50 years in the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings. The university also advanced 30 spots over last year in the 2018 QS World University Rankings, placing our institution in the world’s top 1.6 per cent.

These rankings reflect sustained momentum on many fronts – research grant funding, citations, awards and accolades for our researchers, faculty and students, and growing international visibility.

We received a record number of research grants, more than $50 million. This included $11.6 million from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, $5.6 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and $2.2 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for high-impact health research.

We made our first moves under the Strategic Directions Game Plan with notable achievements. These included launching several new and exciting initiatives: the Horizon Postdoctoral Fellowship program, the first cohort of the Public Scholars, Concordia University Press, the Indigenous Directions Leadership Group, and the establishment of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering.

We also launched and revised several academic programs, featured in this report, as part of our efforts to build unique interdisciplinary platforms for research and teaching. Plus, we made gains to enhance experiential learning and to support professional and lifelong learning opportunities.

I would like to thank all of the departing and continuing members of Senate for their hard work and dedication during the past year. Your leadership has contributed to strengthening Concordia as a next-generation university.

I continue to be optimistic about our future, and believe together we can continue to make our university the best it can be.

Alan Shepard
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 nine 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Analyzes the relevant operating and capital budgets to inform the Senate discussion thereof.

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

Eight regular meetings of Senate were held during the 2016/2017 academic year:

- September 16, 2016
- October 7, 2016
- November 4, 2016
- December 9, 2016
- January 20, 2017
- March 17, 2017
- April 21, 2017
- May 19, 2017

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The summary and highlights of the main topics discussed during the year are summarized hereinafter. The full details are included in the Minutes which are posted on the Senate website.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS
During the academic year, Senate received regular updates in connection with the strategic planning process following the approval of the strategic directions by the Board in June 2015.

At the September meeting, Senators were presented with an overview of the shared priorities, including some examples on how the year’s focus was on continuing to support the academic sector, continuing to support student success, planning the comprehensive campaign and improving the University’s reputation locally and internationally. For the benefit of new Senators, a summary of the strategic directions path was given, which resulted in an articulation of nine strategic directions for Concordia.

At the November meeting, Senators were provided with a high-level summary of some of the ongoing initiatives under the guidance of the game plan, developed at the conclusion of the strategic planning process, which includes a priority list of “first moves” undertaken in 2016/2017.

RESEARCH
• In accordance with the Policy on Research Units (VPRGS-8), during the course of the year Senate granted the university-recognition status to the Centre for Research Expertise on Aging Through Engagement (CREATE), with the recommendation that a more distinctive Centre name, not subject to Senate approval, be chosen.
• A comprehensive presentation was given regarding the University Research Units and Infrastructure Platforms governed by Policy (VPRGS-8).

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:

• Master of /Magisteriate in Engineering (Environmental Engineering): stems from the reorganization of an existing option. Granting a distinct degree more accurately reflects the area of training. This program better prepares students to work for various environmental technology industries, municipalities and consulting firms.
• Master of /Magisteriate in Engineering (Construction Engineering and Management): is also the result of a reformulation of an existing option, is the most popular graduate program in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering and addresses the demand of graduate students for training to obtain the knowledge and skills required in the construction industry.
• Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship: provides non-business graduates the required skills and knowledge to start their own micro-enterprise such as an artist-run studio, design firm or professional practice. This offering, unique to Canada, was designed in response to student demand for a short and focused program in entrepreneurship and is geared toward graduates from Fine Arts, Engineering, and Arts and Science.
• BComm Honours in Accountancy: provides an opportunity for the most gifted students in Accountancy to undertake accounting research work in their undergraduate program, thereby
enhancing their degree. It also encourages intellectually curious students to consider an academic career in accounting.

- **Minor in Information Systems Audit and Risk Management:** fills a gap in the areas of Information Systems Audit and Risk Management and helps students gain experience in both areas. It responds to an increasing demand for professionals in security audit, information technology audit, fraud risk management and information technology risk management.

- **Minor in Real Estate:** offers a multidisciplinary education in business, economics, finance, regional science, urban planning and public policy.

- **Master of/Magisterate in Arts (Youth Work and Psychoeducation):** is designed to form practitioners working with young people in different settings. Based on three distinct models in child work, it is the first Anglophone program in Quebec, with a dedicated content around intervention and prevention relative to indigenous youth.

**ACADEMIC UNITS**

Senate recommended Board approval of the establishment of the [Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering](#). This unique program supports three of the strategic directions.

Senate also endorsed recommendations to the Board to modify the name of the following units, in order to better align their names with the scope of their activities:

- Department of Religion to [Department of Religions and Cultures](#)
- School of Canadian Irish Studies to [School of Irish Studies](#)
- Department of Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering to [Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering](#)

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

- Following its establishment by Steering Committee of Senate in May 2016, the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Senate Eligibility Requirements presented its report and recommendation regarding revised eligibility requirements of its members to serve on Senate, which were unanimously endorsed by Senate. The revised eligibility requirements were incorporated into article 63 of the [By-Laws](#) and approved by the Board of Governors.

- Following review and approval by the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, Senate was provided with updated [guidelines for the supervision of Masters’ students](#) and [guidelines for the supervision of PhD students](#) as well as a [modified process](#) regarding graduate curriculum review and approval procedures.

**GENERAL**

To deepen their knowledge and understanding of the role of administrative operations relative to academic life, Senators benefited from presentations regarding facilities development, scholarly publishing and the establishment of the date of reading week.
MEMBERSHIP
The membership of Senate for the 2016/2017 (as of May 2017) included:

VOTING MEMBERS
EX-OFFICIO
Alan Shepard
President and Vice-Chancellor
Graham Carr
Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs
Justin Powlowski
Interim Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies
André Roy
Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
Amir Asif
Dean, Faculty of Engineering & Computer Science
Rebecca Duclos
Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts
Stéphane Brutus
Interim Dean, John Molson School of Business
Paula Wood-Adams
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Guylaine Beaudry
University Librarian

FACULTY OF ARTS
AND SCIENCE
Patrice Blais (PT)
Philippe Caignon
Christine DeWolf
Effrosyni Diamantoudi
Jill Didur
Marcie Frank
Mariana Frank
David Morris
Monica Mulrennan
Virginia Penhune
Harald Proppe
Daniel Salée
Francesca Scala
Jean-Philippe Warren

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
Ali Akgunduz
Brigitte Jaumard
Yousef Shayan
Ted Stathopoulos
Sofiène Tahar

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS
Daniel Cross
Eliza Griffiths
Lorraine Oades (PT)
John Potvin

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Frank Crooks
Charles Draimín
Lea Katsanís
Robert Soroka (PT)

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN
Vince Graziano

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
Patrick Blair
Ian Campbell
Jana Ghalayini
Shannon Gittens-Yahoba
Rudy Grow
Lucinda Marshall-Kiparişis
Marion Miller
Alexander Milton
Omar Riaz
Sophia Sahrané
Ali Sherra
Steven Tutino

GRADUATE STUDENTS
Mudasser Akbar
Esmaeel Kariminezhad
Rahul Kumar
Shahbaz Masood
NON-VOTING MEMBERS
EX-OFFICIO
Philippe Beauregard
Chief Communications Officer
Denis Cossette
Chief Financial Officer
Roger Côté
Vice-President, Services
Isabel Dunnigan
Director, Centre for Continuing Education
Bram Freedman
Vice-President, Advancement and External Relations
Frederica Jacobs
Secretary-General and General Counsel
Lisa Ostiguy
Deputy Provost
Daniel Therrien
University Registrar

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF
Joanne Beaudoin
Emmet Henchey

SECRETARY OF SENATE
Danielle Tessier