

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

Friday, September 17, 2021  
following the meeting of the Closed Session  
via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting Members: Graham Carr (*Chair*), Lourdu Reddy Allam, Shimon Amir, Leslie Barker, Mathew Barker, Guylaine Beaudry, Joanna Berzowska, Elizabeth Bloodgood, Catherine Bolton, Lovina Angela Brown, Boutaina Chafi, Queenie Hui Jing Chen, Demetre Christopoulos, Sally Cooke, Anne-Marie Croteau, Alexandra Dawson, Selvadurai Dayanandan, Mourad Debbabi, Larry Deck, Effrosyni Diamantoudi, Riya Dutta, Linda Dyer, Mary Esteve, Mehdi Farashahi, Ariela Freedman, Annie Gérin, Marina Ghali, Nicolka Gorel, Abdelwahab Hamou-Lhadj, Hannah Jamet-Lange, Moshe Lande, Eduardo Malorni, Catherine Mulligan, Gilles Peslherbe, Duraichelvan Raju, Jasmine Ramcharitar-Brown, Rosemary Reilly, Pascale Sicotte, Satinder Pal Singh, Robert Soroka, Kelly Thompson, Craig Townsend, Alex De Visscher, Jean-Philippe Warren, Deeva Wazir, Anne Whitelaw, Shaina Willison, Paula Wood-Adams, Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Caroline Baril, Philippe Beauregard, Nadia Bhuiyan, Paul Chesser, William Cheaib, Denis Cossette, Stéphanie de Celles, Sandra Gabriele, Michael Di Grappa, Nadia Hardy, Tom Hughes, Candace Jacobs, Frederica Jacobs, Émilie Martel, Lisa Ostiguy

Also attending: Karan Singh, Melodie Sullivan

ABSENT

Voting members: Reza Soleymani, Guylaine Vaillancourt

Non-voting members: Heather Adams-Robinette, Richard Courtemanche, Sai Yaswanth Reddy Kudumala Mamoun Medraj, Bard Nelson, Peter Pawelek

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

### 1.1 Approval of the Agenda

*R-2021-5-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

### 1.2 Adoption of May 21, 2021 Minutes

*R-2021-5-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 21, 2021, be adopted.*

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

## 3. President's remarks

The President's remarks are summarized as follows:

- The President welcomed everyone to the new academic year, including the new Senators, and thanked all Senators for their important service to the university.
- The President informed Senate that the Senate Steering Committee discussed how meetings would be held for the 2021-22 year, as the meeting room in the EV, where meetings were usually held, was not appropriate given COVID protocols. It was decided to continue with virtual meetings, while alternatives were being looked at, bearing in mind that with regard to room allocations in the university, priority is given to academic activities.
- The President welcomed many members of the community who had not been on campus for over 18 months. He spoke to the protocols that had been put into place by Environmental Health and Safety, which includes the distribution of masks at points of entry to campus and the implementation of vaccine passports for non-academic activities and events. He thanked those coming to campus who, in the vast majority, have been respectful of the guidelines.
- Dr. Carr provided Senate an overview of how the fall semester courses were being delivered. The planning for the fall semester included three main considerations: importance of demonstration of flexibility, how to best deliver the mission of the university and consideration to prioritize safe return to campus. On the academic side, the Provost worked with the Deans and departments to develop a mixed model of course delivery with in-person, blended, e-Concordia and remote delivery. Dr. Carr was grateful to the many faculty members and departments who had used the summer period to reflect on how different teaching techniques and approaches in their curriculum. Another important consideration in developing the schedule was how to best serve our international students, including the accommodation of any study permit delays they may be facing, by ensuring that sections of some key courses

were available online. The university believes that approximately 70% of international students are already in Montreal.

- Dr. Carr shared that out of the 2,205 course sections offered in the fall, close to 60% are either completely in person or a blend of online and in-person, and 37% are remote or traditionally e-Concordia courses. Moreover, 77% of students are taking at least one course in person, and 81% are registered for at least one online activity. The library use is at close to pre-pandemic activity, with over 5,500 students having accessed the Webster Library on Wednesday, September 15, plus 1,000 at the Vanier Library on the Loyola Campus.
- Dr. Carr informed Senate that early indications suggest a potential 2% growth in enrollment, mainly driven by graduate program enrollments and international student demand.
- Dr. Carr conveyed that because of the limited activity on our campuses due to the pandemic the university could accelerate some key renovation projects. The university opened the Applied Science Hub last December; completed the redesign and renovation of the sixth floor of the Hall Building, which now houses the Dean of Students offices, an enlarged Otsenhákta Student Centre for Indigenous students, the Sexual Assault Resource Centre, an Integrated Volunteer Centre and The Link newspaper; added six new classrooms in the Faubourg basement, and completed all but one floor of the Monnit building, moving academic and research units onto all floors except the first floor, which will be delivered later in the fall.
- Before concluding, Dr. Carr shared with Senate the story of Dr. Nadia Chaudhri, a renowned researcher at Concordia, who is currently in palliative care with a terminal cancer. Born in Pakistan, Dr. Chaudhri came to Canada and Concordia after completing her PhD studies and postdoc in the US. Even from her hospital room, she has been a huge inspiration having raised close to \$550,000 as part of the Shuffle campaign to raise funds to support graduate students from minority and underrepresented groups who want to do neuroscience research at Concordia. This campaign was supported by over 8,000 donors from around the world. In recognition of her life's work and contribution to the university, Dr. Carr offered, on behalf of the university, his profound thanks to Dr. Chaudhri.

#### 4. Academic Update (Document US-2021-5-D2)

In addition to her written report, Dr. Whitelaw's remarks are summarized as follows:

- Dr. Whitelaw thanked all for the work that was done to get our courses online and specially thanked the faculty members for support that they have provided to students. Dr. Whitelaw also thanked the students for their patience with the class schedules given the public health directives from the government.
- Dr. Whitelaw also thanked all the student associations for their collaboration and support.

- Dr. Whitelaw informed Senate that a consultation on teaching and learning will be launched to reflect on how to learn in a post-pandemic world. The period of the consultation is expected to be six months, where discussions will take place with the community at large to better understand and plan how best to serve our community.
- Dr. Whitelaw informed Senate that the Board had approved the creation of the School of Health, and that the search for the Dean will be launched very soon.

## CONSENT

### 5. **Committee appointments** (Document US-2021-5-D3)

*R-2021-5-6 That the committee appointments be approved.*

## REGULAR

### 6. **Annual report of the academic hearing panel** (Document US-2021-5-D4)

Melodie Sullivan, Senior Legal Counsel, explained the process that leads to a hearing and presented the highlights of the report, which is provided annually for information purposes in accordance with the requirements set out in Article 94 of the *Academic Code of Conduct* and responded to questions. She noted that the rate of incidents has increased. Me Sullivan informed Senate that the policy on the *Establishment of Tribunal Hearing Pools (BD-6)* was being modified, to increase the number of members in the pools. Other options were being explored, which includes group hearings to avoid delaying anyone's academic progress.

Further to a question regarding the estimate number of tribunals that would take place this year, Me Sullivan explained that given the increase in the number of cases, the university is conscious of this and hopes to, at least, replicate the number of tribunals from last year, if not do better.

### 7. **Approval of the new Policy on the Conferral of the Title of Distinguished Professor Emeriti or Distinguished Librarian Emeriti** (Document US-2021-5-D5)

Dr. Carr and Dr. Whitelaw informed Senate of a new policy that was developed on the conferral of the Title of Distinguished Professor Emeriti or Distinguished Librarian Emeriti, which was aimed to streamline the process of awarding these titles. The development of the policy also allowed for the minor amendments to the membership and mandate of the Distinguished Emeriti Committee. Though the approval was being sought at this time, the launch of the policy will be aligned with a new Revocation Policy, which is currently being developed.

*R-2021-5-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Steering Committee, the Policy on the Conferral of the Title of Distinguished Professor Emeriti or Distinguished Librarian Emeriti, and the revisions*

*to the Distinguished Professor Emeriti and Distinguished Librarian Emeriti Committee be approved.*

## **8. Question period**

Hannah Jamet-Lange asked about the discontinuation of the pass/fail grade option. Dr. Whitelaw explained that not having a GPA tool does not allow the university to properly assess a student's performance. The pass/fail option was a temporary measure introduced at the beginning of the pandemic, but a CGPA is an important tool needed to conduct a proper annual performance of the student and reach out to students who are struggling and provide the support they need. The option to discontinue (DISC) is still available, and students are still able to advise the university if they can't come to campus or need to discontinue, which will allow them to be deregistered.

Linda Dyer asked a question about the survey that was administered regarding diversity issues and if a report would be forthcoming. Dr. Nadia Hardy confirmed to look into the status of this request.

Ariela Freedman wanted to know if there was any plan if the COVID numbers went up. Dr. Whitelaw informed that there were a couple of contingency plans that had already been discussed. Dr. Whitelaw also informed that they organize weekly meetings with Michael Di Grappa, Vice President, Services and Sustainability, to constantly evaluate the situation. Dr. Carr added that the university was constantly keeping in touch with public health teams on this.

## **9. Other business**

There was no other business to bring before the Open Session.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

*Shelina Houssenaly*

Shelina Houssenaly  
Secretary of Senate