

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

Friday, February 17, 2023, at 2 p.m.
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting Members: Graham Carr (Chair), Nagendra Sri Anurag Appala, Leslie Barker (attended remotely), Sabine Bergler, Dominique Bérubé, Beverley Best, Catherine Bolton, Adam Bouguila, Sally Cooke (remotely), Anne-Marie Croteau, Fabienne Cyrius, Alexandra Dawson, Selvadurai Dayanandan, Mourad Debbabi, Larry Deck, Effrosyni Diamantoudi, William Dickson, Mary Esteve (attended remotely), Mehdi Farashahi, Annie Gérin, Marina Ghali, Fawaz Halloum, Steve Henle, Asli Isaaq, Jordan Jerome-Pitre, Rebecca Kaninda, Michael Lecchino, Sofia Lipari-Couture, Christopher Moore, Peter Morden (attended remotely), Catherine Mulligan (attended remotely), Fuzhan Nasiri (attended remotely), Xavier Ottenwaelder, Ian Rakita, Nachiketh R. Ravindra, Pat Riva, Ahmadou Sakho, Pascale Scotte, Sofiane Tahar, Kelly Thompson, Craig Townsend, Guylaine Vaillancourt (attended remotely), Deeva Wazir, Anne Whitelaw, Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Paul Chesser, Stéphanie de Celles, Michael Di Grappa (attended remotely), Nadia Hardy, Frederica Jacobs, Emilie Martel (attended remotely), Stefana Nita

Also attending: Nadia Bhuiyan (attended remotely), William Cheaib, Richard Courtemanche, Alex De Visscher, Danielle Dennie, Sandra Gabrielle (attended remotely), Melanie Jane Hazlett, Lisa Ostiguy (attended remotely), Anna Sheftel

ABSENT

Voting members: Matthew Barker, Samreet Kaur, Moshe Lander, David Morris, Mireille Paquet, Thenmozhi Rajan

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette, Isabel Dunnigan, Tom Hughes

1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2023-1-1 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the revised Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of December 16, 2022 Minutes

R-2023-1-2 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 16, 2022, 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:

- G. Carr began by acknowledging that the last 2 weeks have been extremely difficult for members of Concordia's Turkish and Syrian communities because of the devastating earthquakes that ravaged southern Turkey and northern Syria, which, per reports from the United Nations, have killed more than 40,000 people and displaced millions of others. He noted that Concordia currently has 396 Syrian students and 99 Turkish students. The Syrian students are mainly permanent residents and Canadian citizens, while the Turkish students are in Canada on international visas.
- He informed Senate that, following news of the earthquakes, the International Students Office (ISO) reached out directly to every Turkish and Syrian student at Concordia to check on them and make them aware of the supports available to them. The office also made arrangements with major telephone service providers to facilitate free calls to their home countries (in areas where phone service was still functioning).
- There are also many Iraqi and Iranian students who have been admitted to Concordia but who are temporarily residing in Turkey pending visa decisions, and the ISO also reached out to them. He confirmed that none of those students, and no students or faculty on exchange or doing research in the affected areas, had been injured or worse because of the earthquakes. The University was continuing to post and update information on the Student Hub and has also sent a message to faculty deans for distribution to departments asking that academic accommodations be provided to students who have been severely affected by the events.
- He further noted that it is more difficult for the University to identify and therefore reach out to faculty and staff of Syrian and Turkish origin, as the University doesn't

have that information, but information has been posted on the Employee Hub about assistance services that are available.

- There is also information available in an article on the University's home page which includes a link to the Red Cross relief effort for those would like to make a donation; the Concordia Student Union has also been collecting donations that are destined for Turkish and Syrian organizations. There is also a link to the Concordia University Turkish Student Association's Instagram and the Association is working with Turquebec and the Turkish Embassy to further the support efforts. The University is continuing to monitor events as they unfold and is responding directly to individuals who have questions or remain uncertain about how to get support.
- G. Carr then noted that, as part of Black History Month, several Concordians were highlighted last week by CBC as Black Changemakers. He congratulated all of them.
- He informed the Board that on February 6, there was an unveiling of a temporary plaque (a model of what will be installed in the spring) in the Atrium of the Hall Building commemorating the student protest against anti-Black racism that took place in the Hall Building in 1969. A bilingual interactive website was also launched and will be populated with additional materials in the future. At this launch, A. Whitelaw announced that, in partnership with the Student Success Center, Concordia was creating a Black Student Centre, and that work had begun on designing a minor in Black and African Diaspora Studies in the Canadian context. He concluded that all of these initiatives are actions stemming from the report of the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism, and there are many more recommendations still to be implemented.
- He was pleased to report that the University had recorded a great year of research funding with more than \$75M in research income in the 2021 fiscal year. This was the first time in the University's history that the \$70M threshold has been exceeded, and this increase represented a leap of more than 25% over the previous year. Only one other university among the top 25 institutions, the University of Saskatchewan, had a higher percentage gain. He noted that this growth largely occurred during the pandemic and was a testimonial to the point that universities continued to advance their mission, even under the duress that everyone experienced during the pandemic.
- Earlier in the week, an event in the John Molson Building was held to honour recipients of the Presidents' Media Outreach awards. These awards are given to faculty and graduate students whose vulgarisation of their research has helped the public understand some of the grand challenges of our time, or whose research has been hailed externally as a breakthrough. One of the awards was given to Muthu Packirisamy, (faculty in Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering), whose development of a breakthrough nano technology in optical-bio microsystems was identified as a top-10 science discovery of the year by *Science QC*.

- He also congratulated E. Diamontoudi, who has been appointed as the new Dean of Graduate Studies after the conclusion of a national search. Senators and meeting guests joined in congratulating E. Diamontoudi.
- The seventh edition of ConUHacks was held on January 21st and 22nd, with record attendance of some 900 attendees, mostly students, who came from across North America to participate in the event. An outstanding list of sponsors from the private and public sector issued the challenges that the hackers sought to crack.
- The winter open house is scheduled for the weekend ahead. The pre-registration numbers are: 4550 students already registered as of the beginning of this week, including nearly 1700 from Quebec, more than 350 from rest of Canada, more than 100 from the United States, and some 2400 who will join targeted virtual information sessions, with the largest group of prospective international students in African countries this time. The students attending in person will be accompanied by more than 2000 guests, mainly parents and siblings. He thanked all of the volunteers for giving their time to the Open House, it is greatly appreciated by the University.

4. Academic update (Document US-2023-1-D1)

In addition to the written report, A. Whitelaw informed Senate that the draft of the new Academic Freedom Policy and procedures was ready and would be shared with Senators sometime next week via a link. She also noted that she would be visiting Faculty Councils to present the policy, and she will also be scheduling meetings with the undergraduate and graduate student senators to get feedback on the policy and answer questions. This consultation process will last about a month, with the policy scheduled to be brought to Senate for approval in May.

CONSENT

5. Tribunal Pool/Committee Nominations (Document US-2023-1-D2)

R-2023-1-3 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Tribunal Pool and Committee appointments be approved.

6. Research Committee Report (Document US-2023-1-D3)

This report was for information purposes.

REGULAR**7. Academic Programs Committee – Report and recommendation – Microprogram in Indigenous Land-Based Education (Document US-2023-1-D4)**

A. Whitelaw presented the item, noting that this comes on the heels of a bridging Indigenous Studies program that was approved in December. P. Sicotte spoke of the new program.

Speaking privileges were requested and granted to Richard Courtemanche and Anna Sheftel, who provided more details about the program and responded to questions.

R-2023-1-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, following recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, the Senate approve the new Microprogram in Indigenous Land-Based Education as detailed in the attached document (Document US-2023-1-D4).

8. Academic Programs Committee – Report and recommendation – Report and recommendation - BEng in Chemical Engineering (Document US-2023-1-D5)

A. Whitelaw presented the item and M. Debbabi spoke to the needs of this new program and shared some facts about the department with Senate. The BEng would be offered starting Fall 2023. He also spoke about the relevance of the program both in Quebec and Canada and how the program would respond to the market needs of engineers. Speaking privileges were requested and granted to Alex De Visscher and Melanie Hazlett, who have championed this program. They both provided more details about the program and responded to some of the questions from Senators.

R-2023-1-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, following recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, the Senate approve the new BEng in Chemical Engineering program as detailed in the attached document (Document US-2023-1-D5).

9. Research Data Management Strategic Plan (Document US-2023-1-D6)

P. Riva presented the item and requested for speaking privileges for Danielle Dennie, who provided a summary of the presentation that was included in the Senate documentation package.

Senators had some questions about the application of the Tri-Agency policy on data and research results that may be encumbered under agreements. Senators also asked whether funding would be available to help researcher comply with the new frameworks.

D. Dennie clarified that the Tri-Agency policy provides for data that is legally permissible to be put in a repository, thus recognizing legal agreements. The Tri-Agencies also had policies around dissemination of research results. On the question of funding, the Chair noted that it

was expected that with new requirements, researchers could include the costs related to data management compliance as a new line item in their budgets.

It was also clarified that the Tri-Agency policy was already in place and there was no change that could be made to that. The only thing being approved today was the University's plan to comply with the policy. With regards to specific reservations about the provisions of the policy, the Chair recommended that the same may be recorded in a cover note, that accompanies the strategy document, when it is submitted to the Tri-Agencies.

R-2023-1-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Senate approve and adopt the Institutional Research Data Management Strategy as detailed in the attached document (Document US-2023-1-D6).

10. Question period

A question was asked about the terminology used in the University's policy US-3, which seemed grammatically incorrect. C. Bolton responded that a lot of debate was undertaken on this, as the terminology stems from Latin, which has three genders. None of the terms could be used to encompass everyone, thus a compromise term was used.

11. Other business

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

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of Senate