



US-2024-2

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

Friday, March 22, 2024,
immediately following the Closed Session
in the Loyola Chapel (Room FC-110), Loyola Campus
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting members:

Anne Whitelaw (Chair)	Selvadurai Dayanandan	Raghulkanna Lakshmanan
Angelica Antonakopoulos	Mourad Debbabi	Christopher Moore (zoom)
Leslie Barker	Larry Deck	David Morris
Dominique Bérubé	Effrosyni Diamantoudi	Catherine Mulligan (zoom)
Beverley Best (zoom)	Mehdi Farashahi (zoom)	Xavier Ottenwaelder
Theresa Bianco	Ariela Freedman	Véronique Pepin
Amy Buckland (zoom)	Annie Gérin	Mahshid Rahbari (zoom)
Alexandrah Cardona	Marina Ghali (zoom)	Rosemary Reilly
Sally Cooke (zoom)	Bonnie Harnden	Pascale Sicotte
Anne-Marie Croteau	Steve Henle	Craig Townsend
Fabienne Cyrius (zoom)	Arnav Ishaan (zoom)	Roberto Viereck-Salinas
Alexandra Dawson (zoom)	Charles Rohinth Joseph	Radu Grigore Zmeureanu
Niraj Dayanandan	Mehdi Kharazmi (zoom)	

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Paul Chesser, Stéphanie de Celles, Nadia Hardy, Stefana Nita (zoom), Carlos Santana, Melodie Sullivan (zoom - attended on behalf of Frederica Jacobs), Olivia Ward (zoom)

Also attending: Caroline Baril, Rachel Berger, Sandra Betton, Richard Courtemanche, Sandra Gabriele, Andrea Jakob (zoom), Tom Peacock (zoom), Rahul Ravi (zoom)

ABSENT

Voting members:

Matthew Barker	Michael Lecchino	Zachary Patterson
Graham Carr	Harley Martin	Ian Rakita

Roy Cross
Dany-Ariel Ishimwe
Moshe Lander

Robert Padmore
Mireille Paquet
Deep Patel

Ahmed Soliman
Melissa Spiridigliozzi
Sofiène Tahar

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette, Michael Di Grappa, Isabel Dunnigan

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2024-2-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of February 8, 2024, Minutes

R-2024-2-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of February 8, 2024, be adopted.

CONSENT

- **Tribunal Pool/Committee Appointments** (Document US-2024-2-D2)

R-2024-2-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Tribunal Pool and Committee appointments be approved.

- **Committee reports** (Document US-2024-2-D3)

These reports were provided for information purposes only.

REGULAR

- **Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda**

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

President's remarks

- The Chair delivered remarks on the President's behalf.
- Following a very successful Open House, enrolment rates have been positive overall. Even after the tuition news, the numbers at Open House were higher than expected, with a 9% increase in attendees from the previous year. The attendees included prospective students from 46 different countries.

- University recruiting teams continue to work to engage with prospective students. The number of applications had been trending downwards; however, the decline hasn't been as bad as was anticipated. There has been a decline seen in applicants from the Rest of Canada and international students, but there has been a slight increase in applications from Quebec. Overall, the biggest decline has been in professional programs, which stands at 44%. The confirmations will be the best measure of final figures, however at this time, a decline of 5.1% overall is being projected. The Chair thanked the faculties, departments, and staff for the continued work on recruitment.
- The Quebec government has presented its budget, with a modest overall increase for the entire university sector, at 1.6%. Until full details are provided in the *Règles budgétaires*, which will be released by the government at the end of April, the expectation is that there will not be any increase in funding with a modest increase in tuition.
- The Chair spoke briefly on the budget situation and noted that the university was on its way to achieving the 7.8% budget reduction required to meet the \$35M deficit target for 2023-24. More effort will be needed to achieve the government-approved deficit for 2024-25. More information will be communicated in the coming months.
- On the legal challenge against the Quebec government's decision to increase tuition for Rest of Canada and international students, the behind-the-scenes work is ongoing. The University team is waiting for confirmation on when the matter will be taken up by the court, however, there doesn't seem to have been any impact on interactions with the Quebec government and it is business as usual.
- Some good news: the Stinger's Women's ice hockey team won the national title, defeating the Toronto Varsity Blues in the championship game. Year after year the ice hockey team is also one of the most performing academically.
- Undergraduate student Selma Herrero Lepers won two prizes at the 2024 *Délie ta langue!* public-speaking competition. Concordia was the only anglophone university participating in the Université de Montréal-organized event and Herrero Lepers was the only contestant to take home two prizes. This proud accomplishment demonstrates Concordia's continued commitment to francization.
- Concordia also won the top prize at the 18th edition of the *Jeux de la traduction*, hosted at Université Laval. The winning team was comprised of six students, a coach, and Professor Danièle Marcoux.
- The University will also be welcoming two Banting fellows as post-doctoral students. The information remains under embargo, but this is an excellent development. The Chair congratulated the School of Graduate Studies for their work on this initiative.

- The Chair informed Senate of a recent on-campus incident. On March 13th, there were protests that led to a disturbance outside of the Hillel Concordia office that was intended to intimidate. Campus safety and the SPVM successfully intervened. The Chair read a statement that denounced the acts of intimidation and clearly stated the University's position on zero tolerance for intimidation on campus. The University is updating its procedures to ensure that all members of the Concordia community are safe on campus.
- On the issue of cancellation of bookings for certain events, the Chair clarified the process. Following receipt of a request for a booking, the request is reviewed for compliance to University policies. If, after approval, some information comes to light that the proposed event is contrary to University's policies, the event may be cancelled.
- The Chair concluded by reminding Senators that they can ask any questions that they may have during the question period at the end of the meeting.

2. **Academic update** (Document US-2024-2-D4)

In addition to the comments delivered under the Chair's remarks and the report included in the documentation package, there were no further updates.

3. **Approval of Executive MBA program (JMSB-EMBA-5394)** (Document US-2024-2-D5)

Dean Croteau presented the item and summarized the changes in the program, which was specifically the additional trip for students to visit indigenous communities to learn business practises. The program fees increase has already been approved by the Finance Committee of the Board.

R-2024-2-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously approved that, on recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the implementation of the changes to the Executive MBA, as detailed in the attached documentation.

4. **New Program: Microprogram in Applied Artificial Intelligence** (GCS-COMP-5493) (Document US-2024-2-D6)

Dean Debbabi presented the item and provided details on the gaps the program is looking to address. This would also position the University in this emerging area. The initiative for the program came from a collaboration with training offered to Ericsson.

There have been other requests to provide training in relation to AI, and, as such, the program is timely and will fill training gaps in this area.

At the outset the program is going to be offered to students within Engineering and Computer Science, with the goal to expand it to all other disciplines, where students wish to register in this program. The program is designed as highly experiential.

Senators had questions related to the role of the Graduate Program Director and admission requirements for non-engineering students. Dean Debbabi provided clarification in relation to these questions.

R-2024-2-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously approved that, on recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the Microprogram in Applied Artificial Intelligence, as detailed in the attached documentation.

5. New Program: Microprogram in Sustainability (SGS-SGS-5492)
(Document US-2024-2-D7)

Dean Diamantoudi presented the item. The proposed program is an innovative format as a graduate micro credential, which will be taught with collaboration from all four faculties. This format will allow for the use of expertise in substantiality across the University. Dean Diamantoudi expressed gratitude for the support that has been received from all faculties.

There was a question related to the Program Director and the scope of the work they would need to undertake, given that coordination for all four faculties. Dean Diamantoudi confirmed that, based on the HR policies, this was the position level that was determined at this time.

R-2024-2-9 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously approved that, on recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the Microprogram in Sustainability, as detailed in the attached documentation.

6. Question period

During question period, a Senator spoke of the harassment of Jewish student groups and the general sense among Jewish community members of not feeling safe on campus. They asked for an update on the progress that has been made with the task force against hate.

The Chair spoke to the University's commitment to ensure that everyone feels safe on campus. There are meetings with student groups and all levels of the University on an ongoing basis, to ensure that activities, events are evaluated on a constant basis. Deputy Provost Nadia Hardy spoke to the progress made in relation to the task force against hate. Various preparatory meetings are already underway, and the structure of the task force is being established, including the identification of the Co-chairs. The sub-committees of the task force will each have a mandate, and the University community will be invited to partake in the various sub-committees' work.

The presentation of new programs earlier in the meeting prompted a question from a Senator about the success of new programs. Senate often approves new program proposals;

would it be possible to report to Senate on the success of the new programs once they have been implemented? The Chair confirmed that a report would be brought back to Senate with data on program evaluation, following approval of new programs.

7. Other business

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

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of Senate