

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

Friday, November 8, 2024 at 3 p.m.
in the Loyola Chapel
(Room FC-110) on the Loyola Campus
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting members:

Graham Carr (Chair)	Anne-Marie Croteau	Mehdi Kharazmi (zoom)
Mohamad Abdallah	Fabienne Cyrius (zoom)	Vanessa Massot
Duraipaandiyaa	Alexandra Dawson	Maggie McDonnell
Anbumani Poongothai (zoom)	Mourad Debbabi	Xavier Ottenwaelder
Angelica Antonakopoulos	Effrosyni Diamantoudi (zoom)	Véronique Pepin
Gabriela Aragon	Ariela Freedman (zoom)	Kareem Rahaman
Ryan Assaker	Annie Gérin (zoom)	Ian Rakita
Sabine Bergler	Andrea Harland	Rosemary Reilly
Theresa Bianco	Bonnie Harnden	Ramin Sedaghati
Patrice Blais	Steve Henle	Anna Sheftel (zoom)
Amy Buckland (zoom)	Mar Ibrahim	Pascale Sicotte (zoom)
Robin Chemtov	Asli Isaaq (zoom)	Ahmed Soliman
Maria Chitoroaga	Arnav Ishaan (zoom)	Ayyappan Subramanian (zoom)
Roy Cross	Mia Kennedy	Sofiène Tahar (zoom)
		Anne Whitelaw (zoom)

Non-voting members: Philippe Beaugard, Paul Chesser (zoom), Stéphanie de Celles, Michael Di Grappa (zoom), Isabel Dunnigan (zoom), Frederica Jacobs (zoom), Olivia Ward

Also attending: Christiana Abraham, Rachel Berger (zoom), Elizabeth Bloodgood, Howard Bokser (zoom), Jason Ens (zoom), Nicole Freeman (zoom), Sandra Gabriele, James Grant, Andrea Jakob (zoom), Rebecca Tittler, Angélique Willkie

ABSENTVoting members:

Matthew Barker	Moshe Lander	Catherine Mulligan
Beverley Best	Christopher Moore	Mireille Paquet
Niraj Dayanandan	David Morris	Kamila Sobol

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette, Stefana Nita, Carlos Santana

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2024-5-1 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of October 11, 2024 Minutes

R-2024-5-2 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of October 11, 2024 be adopted.

CONSENT

2. Library Spectrum Report (Document US-2024-5-D1)

3. Committee reports (Document US-2024-5-D2)

These reports were provided for information purposes only.

4. Committee and Tribunal Pool appointments (Document US-2024-5-D3)

R-2024-5-3 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Committee and Tribunal Pool appointments be approved.

5. APC recommendation: Regulations and requirements changes
(Document US-2024-5-D4)

5.1. Addition of administrative notations – Academic Re-evaluation and Late Completion (OOR-OOR-5560)

5.2. Changes to admissions regulations on demonstrating English language proficiency (OOTR-OOTR-5681)

5.3. School of Graduate Studies integrated pathways (OOR-OOR-5367)

R-2024-5-4 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the regulations and requirement changes as detailed in the attached document:*

- *Addition of administrative notations – Academic Re-evaluation and Late Completion (OOR-OOR-5560)*
- *Changes to admissions regulations on demonstrating English language proficiency (OOR-OOR-5681)*
- *School of Graduate Studies integrated pathways (OOR-OOR-5367)*

6. APC recommendation: Program title changes (Document US-2024-5-D5)

6.1. Faculty of Arts and Science

AS-AHSC-5513 - Program Title Change from Certificate in Community Service to Certificate in Community and Organizational Leadership

6.2. School of Graduate Studies

SGS-SGS-5634 - Program Title Change from Sustainability Microprogram to Sustainability Perspectives Graduate Microprogram

R-2024-5-5 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the program title changes as detailed in the attached document:*

- *Certificate in Community Service to Certificate in Community and Organizational Leadership (AS-AHSC-5513)*
- *Sustainability Microprogram to Sustainability Perspectives Graduate Microprogram (SGS-SGS-5634)*

REGULAR

7. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

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

8. President's remarks

- Dr. Carr began by thanking everyone for accommodating the change in location and time of Senate.
- He noted that the last Senate meeting had been on the eve of Fall Reading week. This was followed by convocation at Place des Arts. 1,200 of the 2,000 fall graduates were

in attendance from the Faculty of Arts and Science, the John Molson School of Business and the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. He offered thanks to everyone from faculty and staff who attended and to the Registrar's team for making the ceremonies a huge success.

- Three outstanding honorary doctorates were awarded: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, who is the founder of India's leading biotechnology enterprise, Biocon and a global thought leader committed to delivering affordable insulin and biologics; John Sicard, a Concordia graduate and outgoing CEO of Kinaxis, and global leader in supply chain management; and Douglas Sanderson, Professor of Aboriginal Law at the University of Toronto, co-author of the award-winning book, *Valley of the Birdtail*, and proponent of Indigenous reconciliation.
- Two outstanding students were awarded the Governor General's Gold and Silver medals: The Gold Medal for the top-performing graduate student went to PhD graduate, Ginath Yuh Yisa, from the Department of Geography, Urban Planning and Environment and the Silver Medal for the academic top-performing undergraduate student went to Philip Smith, from the Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics (and a past member of the Garnet Key Society), who graduated with a GPA of 4.3.
- The John Molson School ceremony marked the last convocation presided over by Co-Chancellor Jonathan Wener, who has served in the role for nearly a decade. He will be succeeded by the current Co-Chancellor as the new Chancellor, Gina Cody.
- At the Open House, the overall attendance was up 3.6%, largely driven by increases from Québec (8.8%) and international (4.2%). There were about 6,000 visitors on the two campuses, which included parents and friends. This was the first time all Montréal universities held open houses on the same weekend, and this was surely a factor that resulted in increased local attendance. He complimented the visibility of services for francophone students as well as support for those who want to learn or improve French. The vibe on both campuses was excellent - well done to all who contributed.
- Turning his attention to other numbers, he noted that there continues to be a drop in Open House participants from the Rest of Canada (down 28%), but he noted that the prospective students and parents who came have already factored in the changes around funding and francization lingering from last year's government announcements and came to Concordia nonetheless because of interest in the programs the University has to offer. On the international front, after the United States, the top international prospects were from France, China, Mexico, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The important work of converting interest into applications, acceptances and registrations was now on.
- Tomorrow in Vancouver, the Royal Society of Canada will be honoring new fellows and prize winners, including six faculty members (a record number for Concordia). Inducted as new fellows are: Ann English, Distinguished Professor Emerita

(Chemistry and Biochemistry), David Howes (Sociology and Anthropology), Muthukumaran Packirisamy (Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering). Joining the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists will be Xia Li (Chemical and Materials Engineering). In addition, Catherine Mulligan (Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering) will receive the Miroslaw Romanowski Medal for her pioneering work in sustainable environmental engineering; and Steven High (History) will receive the J.B. Tyrrell Medal for his contributions to Canadian history.

- He invited Senators to join him in congratulating colleagues for their great personal achievements, which bring luster to Concordia's growing stature as a high impact research leader in Canada.
- Dr. Carr then noted the sad news of the passing of Justice Murray Sinclair, who was Chair of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Residential Schools. In September 2022, he was awarded the Loyola Medal for his work as a lifelong champion of Indigenous rights. A tribute to Justice Sinclair has been posted on the News section of the University's website.
- On the political front, Dr. Carr informed Senate that, earlier in the week, he was in Québec City with Pasa Lebel, Executive Director of Government Relations, and another colleague Sebastien Lebel-Grenier, Principal of Bishop's University, to testify before the committee of the National Assembly on the proposed *Loi 74* to limit new international students at Québec universities. Other Québec universities also testified Tuesday and Wednesday, as did various other intervenors, including the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal.
- There is no proposal yet on the reduction of student visas, but minister Jean-François Roberge has made various claims about Montréal, the regions, language, programs of choice, asylum-seeking and abuse of the immigration system that raise concerns as various elements that the government is looking to address. The University's written mémoire is available on the University's website and LinkedIn account, as well as the National Assembly's website. The testimonies of the universities were unanimous in demanding that restrictions on international visas not apply to universities. International students bring value to institutions and to the province rather than posing a problem with respect to capacity to serve and integrate in society.
- Dr. Carr noted that undergraduate international students have a high success rate (over 90% at Concordia) and complete programs in a timely fashion. Graduate international students are integral to advancing the research mission of universities and make up majority of MA/PhD students at research universities across Canada, North America and Europe. He also noted that the data is clear that international student numbers are declining in anglophone universities over the last two years, and that growth in international student cohorts is happening in francophone universities, especially in the regions.

- In the last 18 months, the government has had 12 new policies or policy changes (federal and provincial governments combined) affecting international students (visas, PEQ program, francization) which have created confusion, tarnished the image of Québec and Canada as welcoming, and severely disrupted the flow of recruitment. He further noted that, if the effect of the elections in the United States mirrors what happened in 2016, we will not be able to capitalize on the flow of international students, to which Canada and Québec would have been an obvious beneficiary.
- The continued geopolitical tensions between India and Canada have brought visa processing to a halt, and the University has already seen a calamitous decline in new Indian graduate student registrations this year. We must anticipate that the situation will be even worse this year. This is particularly difficult as, until the fall of 2023, students from India represented the largest international cohort in Canada.
- Needless to say, the University is monitoring the situation very closely and doing the utmost to advocate both with the Québec government and, through Universities Canada, with the federal government.
- Dr. Carr then spoke of the events of October 31st, where at 1:30 p.m., a demonstration occurred outside of the GM building and lasted about one hour. Without incident, the group of approximately 60 protestors left the Guy-Metro Building; however, they re-entered, circling the campus and entering the metro station. Two Concordia Campus Safety and Prevention Services agents were assaulted by protestors. The agents were pushed against walls, they had doors repeatedly slammed on them and they were knocked to the ground.
- The police were called to the Library Building to assist, and the protestors were dispersed. Two protestors were arrested for assault and the agents were treated onsite for their injuries.
- Dr. Carr reiterated that criminal acts such as the assault of security personnel are unacceptable. Students are free to express themselves in a civil and respectful manner, but the University will not tolerate violence, in any form, on campus. The University remains very concerned by a discernible escalation in violence and vigilantism over the past several weeks, as he had discussed at Senate in October
- He noted that there was information that some of the instigators behind this escalating violence and vigilantism are not members of the University community, but members of other activist groups in the city who are known to police and have carried out similar actions elsewhere in the past. There has been disturbing signage posted around campus with a slogan: 'save a life, kill a cop', which is simply not acceptable language that should be used at the University. Just as we are upset when students, faculty, staff or administrators are doxed on social media, we are disturbed when the same thing happens – as it is happening – to members of the Campus Safety team.
- The University is also concerned that some individuals from these groups may be trying to align themselves with student organizations to get unauthorized access to

University premises. The University has been very clear in acknowledging the scope for peaceful protest on campus, but Dr. Carr expressed hope that all Senators will agree that incidents such as these - that result in physical attacks on people and property - are unacceptable and intolerable.

9. Academic update (Document US-2024-5-D6)

Dr. Whitelaw noted that there were two finalists for the Rhodes Scholarship this year who were from Concordia and that being short listed for this award was a great accomplishment.

10. APC recommendation: New Program – Minor in Black and African Diaspora Studies in the Canadian Context (AS-INTE-5555) (Document US-2024-5-D7)

A. Whitelaw introduced the program, following which Dean Sicotte gave some introductory comments. Dean Sicotte was delighted to present this new program to Senate for approval. This was a product of one of the recommendations from the President’s Task Force on Anti-Black Racism. Dean Sicotte noted that the program’s champions, Angélique Willkie and Christiana Abraham, had worked closely with the Dean’s Office to develop the program, which has shared support from the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Faculty of Fine Arts. Dean Gérin then spoke, noting that adopting this program marks a historic moment for Concordia and that the Faculty of Fine Arts was very proud to be supporting this program.

E. Bloodgood then presented an overview of the 24-credit minor program. A. Willkie noted that the opportunity to bring this program to Senate was humbling and said that the program would transform the University and was long overdue. The community expectations regarding the program were high. The President’s Taskforce of Anti-Black racism finally helped the University recognize its history of over 50 years, where community members had protested, negotiated to recognize Black scholarship and have an unavoidable lens on Black history in Canada. A. Willkie noted that this was an important step towards righting what has been a painful history and furthering racial equity.

C. Abraham spoke of a report from 1970 by James Whitelaw, who pays particular attention to Black Studies and the need for such programs. With this new Black Studies minor, Concordia will join other universities like TMU, Guelph, Waterloo, OCAD (which now has a minor in design), Queen’s and the University of Toronto - all of whom have minor programs - and Dalhousie, that offers a major. This is part of the long struggle of including Black history as part of Canada’s higher education.

Implementing this new program would continue the work towards decolonization.

R-2024-5-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the new program Minor in Black and African Diaspora Studies in the Canadian Context (AS-INTE-5555), as detailed in the attached document.

Dr. Carr congratulated everyone for their work and on the approval of this program.

11. APC recommendation: New Program - Microprogram in Sustainability Principles (AS-LOYC-5550) (Document US-2024-5-D8)

A. Whitelaw introduced the program, following which Dean Sicotte gave some introductory comments. E. Bloodgood then provided some information on the new program, which was going to be a 15-credit program for CEGEP graduates who are not ready to commit to a full undergraduate program. This program would be offered both online and in person.

The champions of the program, Rebecca Tittler and James Grant, spoke to how the program was imbedded in the University's Sustainability Action Plan.

R-2024-5-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the new program Microprogram in Sustainability Principles (AS-LOYC-5550), as detailed in the attached document.

Dr. Carr congratulated everyone involved and noted that it was great to see Senate approving new programs, as this is the primary mandate of Senate.

12. Strategic Directions

Dr. Carr presented the process that was undertaken when the University's Strategic Directions were developed a decade ago. He deemed this important, as many current Senators were not part of the process of developing the current Strategic Directions, and providing an overview of the process and consultations that had taken place would help inform the process of reviewing them.

Dr. Carr went on to provide a detailed overview of the process, which included establishing a Steering Committee to develop and vote on priorities. Consultations followed, which included speaker series, input from thought leaders and consultation at Senate. The process ensured that community-wide participation was encouraged with student, faculty and staff representation. Targeted consultation with department chairs, directors and associate vice-presidents also took place. The Senior Administration team participated in a brainstorming session where they deliberated on the key themes that had emerged from the consultation process. The focus was not only to have the correct phrasing of the directions, but also to include language that was heard from the community.

In the end, nine Strategic Directions were identified, which were reviewed by the Advisory Committee and went on to be approved by Senate and the Board.

Moving forward, Dr. Carr noted that there was already a pathway that had been built, and now said pathway needs to be refined. The work would include engagement that reflects the voices and the ambitions of the University community. Given the work that was already done, there would be value in having a lighter process, which may even be slightly accelerated. As the original Strategic Directions were meant to be general and flexible, the aim would be to build on that existing work.

The world and the University have gone through changes since the last iteration of the Strategic Directions and as such, that would be reflected in the revision exercise with the important element being how the University will be positioned as a Next-Gen University.

There were some questions from Senators, specifically about the accelerated process, and comments that, given all the changes afoot, it would be important to conduct a thorough process.

There was also a question about how the working groups would be set up and whether the Strategic Directions included the care of people as an important element.

Dr. Carr confirmed that there was no fixed timeline, and the framework was just suggestive to help launch and guide the process. He also noted that the working groups were all volunteer-based and that he was happy to receive interest from whoever wishes to continue the process. He noted that this could be part of the discussion at Senate in December.

He concluded by saying that the language of the Directions, specifically 'Go Beyond' had the care and support of the community embedded in it.

13. Question period

Senators had a few questions regarding the impact on University's revenues, particularly with the changes in registration numbers.

Dr. Carr spoke about the major impact that has already been seen on the budgetary situation and the continued challenges that the University will face. He further elaborated on the fact that, in addition to the diminished revenue, the overall culture and image of the University would suffer and be seen as less welcoming of international students, which would put a dent on diversity.

There was another question on whether working groups set up for work related to Strategic Directions will have student representation. Dr. Carr confirmed that the last time when working groups were set up, there was student participation, and it would be the case this time as well.

14. Other business

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

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of Senate