

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

Friday, October 3, 2025
Immediately following the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus
and via Zoom Videoconferencing

PRESENT

Voting members:

Graham Carr (Chair)	Lina El-Bakaye	Isabella Providenti
Saraluz Barton-Gomez	Zoe Erika-Okoye	Sina Queyras
Seif Bedair	Ariela Freedman	Isabelle Ranger
Theresa Bianco	Annie Gérin	Rosemary Reilly (zoom)
Patrice Blais	Michael Gillis	Aphrodite Salas (zoom)
Onur Bodur	Eléanore Handsone	Ramin Sedaghati
Narmine Boubasla	Andrea Harland	Adam Semergian
Amy Buckland	Aaron Johnson (attended as delegate for T. Evans)	Anna Sheftel
Robin Chemtov	Vanessa Massot	Pascale Sicotte
Roy Cross	Maggie McDonnell (zoom)	Kamila Sobol (zoom)
Anne-Marie Croteau	Christopher Moore	Reza Soleymani
Fabienne Cyrius	Peter Morden	Ahmed Soliman
Alexandra Dawson	Sanaz Naghdi	Preethi Srikanth
Mourad Debbabi	Xavier Ottenwaelder	Huu Thien Tran
Effrosyni Diamantoudi	Véronique Pepin	Roberto Viereck-Salinas
Geoffrey Dover		Radu Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Paul Chesser, Stéphanie de Celles, Michael Di Grappa, Tom Hughes (zoom), Frederica Jacobs (zoom), Brad Nelson, Olivia Ward (zoom)

Also attending: Rachel Berger, Richard Courtemanche, Jason Ens, Julie Fortier (zoom), Béatrice Girardin, Cédric Jamet (zoom), Félix-Antoine Joli-Coeur, Melodie Sullivan

ABSENT

Voting members:

Bonnie Harnden
Steve Henle

Moshe Lander
Catherine Mulligan

Muhammad Ilyas Nadeem
Mireille Paquet

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette, Isabel Dunnigan

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2025-4-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of May 16, 2025 Minutes

R-2025-4-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of May 16, 2025 adopted.

CONSENT

2. Committee report (Document US-2025-4-D2)

The report was provided for information only.

3. Committee appointments (Document US-2025-4-D3)

4. Appointment to the Concordia Council on Student Life (Document US-2025-4-D4)

R-2025-4-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Committee and Tribunal appointments be approved.

5. Spring Graduation Report (Document US-2025-D5)

This item was provided for information only.

REGULAR

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

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

7. President's remarks

- Dr. Carr began by acknowledging some important changes in senior leadership:
 - Anne Whitelaw stepped down as Provost and Vice-President, Academic in late August after seven years serving in that role in addition to several other senior roles at the University. Dr. Carr thanked A. Whitelaw for her service to the University over the past decade.
 - Nadia Hardy stepped down as Deputy Provost, also after many years of serving different roles in the Office of the Provost. N. Hardy is returning to her teaching position in the Department of Mathematics.
 - Sandra Gabriele accepted the position of Provost at OCAD University.
 - Other appointments include Rachel Berger as new Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning; Brad Nelson, Deputy Provost and Faye Diamantoudi who agreed to serve as Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic. As F. Diamantoudi was Dean of Graduate Studies, Geoffery Dover has taken over as Interim Dean.
 - Dr. Carr thanked these colleagues for accepting to serve in these senior roles, particularly at a time when the University has quite a few challenges.
- Other positive news: two alumni, Jessica Lee Gagné and Barry Julien, won Emmy awards: J.-L. Gagné is the first woman to win a cinematography Emmy for her work on the hit series, *Severance*; B. Julien has been the long-time co-executive producer of *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, which won for best late-night show.
- *Bloomberg Businessweek* named the John Molson School the #1 MBA and Business School in Canada, overtaking the perennial favorites the Ivey School at Western, and placing ahead of Desautels and HEC here in Montréal. Dr. Carr offered congratulations to Dean Croteau and the entire faculty, students and team at JMSB.
- The University closed the capital campaign raising \$365M, which exceeded the campaign's goal of \$350M. Dr. Carr thanked the team at University Advancement and Alumni Relations for their work, and expressed gratitude for the work of the faculty deans, the Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Impact, the Office of the Provost, University Communications, and all those who have worked on connecting to donors, mounting proposals, and telling the great story of Concordia's ascendance as one of the top young universities in the world. Dr. Carr also took the opportunity to highlight the contributions of countless volunteers, especially the co-chairs of the campaign (including Gina Cody), and alumni and friends who have built contacts and opened doors for the University around the world. Most of the funding from the campaign goes to support students, research, and various initiatives on campus. The campaign is a demonstration of confidence

that the community and people from all over are showing in the mission of the University and its role in Montréal, Québec and Canada.

- Dr. Carr congratulated the students at Space Concordia, which became the first group in Canada to launch a rocket from Canadian soil in 25 years. The work is a major accomplishment of over seven years of work by close to 700 students. This is an extraordinary feat of engineering and is equally notable for the Space Concordia team's collaboration with the Mistissini Cree Nation of Northern Québec.
- The students met with the Cree Council many times to explain project and get support. The community welcomed students with open arms, housing them for four weeks leading up to the launch in August and introducing them to the Cree way of life.
- This week was also National Truth and Reconciliation Day. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission originated as investigation into abuse at residential schools, underlining an unavoidable correlation between colonial systems of education and marginalization and even erasure of Indigenous peoples and culture. The calls for action continue for the national university community to make higher education more accessible to Indigenous peoples and Indigenous knowledge, and to address and recognize history of settler-Indigenous relations in Canada. Dr. Carr noted that it was heartening to see that an initiative like Space Concordia seems to have achieved something tangible in the spirit of what reconciliation represents. He thanked the entire Space Concordia team for their work.
- Dean Debbabi and Dr. Carr also had the honour to meet and thank Jordan Coonishish, whose father, Harry, is the Cree custodian of the land from which the Starsailor was launched. The entire experience has been indelible for our students and hopefully will nourish long-lasting collaborations between our two communities.
- Dr. Carr reported that the changes in the council of ministers in Québec resulted in the appointment of a new minister for higher education, Martine Biron, and a new minister responsible for relations with anglophone communities, Christopher Skeete, who is a graduate of the University. The University is looking forward to working with both.
- The provincial government will be holding public consultations in late October on pluri-annual immigration planning. Like other universities, Concordia has also submitted a mémoire, focussed on the damaging impact of immigration quotas and the elimination of the PEQ on international student recruitment and retention. Oral testimonies shall also be given, as part of the consultations.
- Turning to fall registrations: Dr. Carr noted that the numbers show a mixed picture. Overall, new registrations are 6.8% higher than new registrations for 2024-25. However, because registration numbers have been declining the last few years, when the flow through of previously registered students is considered, the

University will have fewer students (in terms of headcount) this year compared to last year. There has been some growth in the registrants from Québec, and the decline in Rest of Canada students has also been halted a bit. There was an important increase in research master's and PhD students, up over 14% from last year.

- Dr. Carr thanked all program directors, admissions teams, the Registrar's Office, faculties and departments for their heroic efforts to recruit and register students that resulted in these increases.
- On the negative side, international registrations continue to fall dramatically (10.7% undergraduate registrations compared to last year when it was at 22%). This decline can be seen across the country and is being impacted by the federal and provincial policies, reducing access to visas, imposing quotas, and implementing visa procedures that have resulted in excessive processing delays. Dr. Carr noted that later in the meeting, invited guest Félix-Antoine Jolicoeur, founder of VOLUME10 think tank and author of *Knowledge without Borders: An Overview of International University Students' Impact in Québec*, will be sharing findings related to international students with Senate.
- In summary, Dr. Carr noted that in 2022 the University received 11,000 graduate and 21,000 undergraduate applications. In 2025, there were fewer than 5,000 graduate and 18,000 undergraduate applications. A combination of government policies and immigration delays have made Canada's perception as unfriendly for international students, something that will take a long time to reverse. The Interim Provost will be visiting departments and discussing with Deans on how best to approach recruitment, targeting certain demographics and continuing to improve strategies.

8. **Academic update** (Document US-2025-4-D6)

There were no additional updates to the report that was provided.

9. **Annual report of the Academic Hearing Panel** (Document US-2025-4-D7)

Dr. Carr introduced the item. M. Sullivan was available to answer questions about the Annual report of the Academic Hearing Panel.

The minor error on the agenda was corrected, as this report was for information only.

10. **School of Performance dossier** (Document US-2025-4-D8)

Dean Gérin presented the dossier and provided background on the work done to merge the three departments. The details of the process and the proposed changes after the merger were provided in the documentation sent to Senate.

With the merger, the new school will better position Concordia in terms of training and profile, with the goal of attracting more students. The merger also aimed to better use and align resources in the faculty.

Senators had a few questions about the name of the school and why 'performance' was finally selected. Also, as there were two other schools at the University, both with an Academic Dean, there were questions about how the School of Performance would be structured in comparison.

Dean Gérin explained that the choice of name was a result of extensive consultations, where the consensus emerged that 'Performance Arts' and other variants can have the connotation of performing the work of other artists, while 'Performance' places the focus on the artists who are also performers. Thus, the choice of name.

On the governance structure, the merger only meant that the three departments would now function as one. There were other examples of schools in Faculty of Fine Arts (Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema), and 'School' is how most other universities named similar departments.

There was also a question on number of UPDs, and whether the school has the student numbers to claim these three UPDs.

Dean Gérin commented on the general structure of the school and noted that work was underway to refine the structure. At this point there are coordinators, so some local expertise will be needed to support the programs. There is nothing decided on course releases, etc.

R-2025-4-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of the Steering Committee, University Senate recommend the approval of the merger of the departments of Music, Theatre and Contemporary Dance and the establishment of the School of Performance to the Board of Governors.

11. Regulation change - AS-ARTISCI-5800 (Document US-2025-4-D9)

Dean Sicotte introduced the item and Richard Coutemanche explained that the latest adjustment to the rule has been in the Undergraduate Calendar since the 2020-21 academic year: students in programs leading to professional accreditation or programs including at least 12 credits from other disciplines can have the 24 credits reduced to 18 credits to avoid having to take extra credits beyond their 90-credit program.

R-2025-4-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the proposed changes to the 24-credit rule as outlined in the attached documentation.

12. Program change - AS-AHSC-5589 (Document US-2025-4-D10)

The change in program where the program currently offers only a course-based option; the proposed change would introduce a thesis-based stream. Dean Sicotte introduced the item and Cédric Jamet, GPD Human Systems Intervention, provided an overview of the changes.

R-2025-4-9 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the changes to the Human Systems Intervention program (AS-AHSC-5589).

13. Impact International Students

The presentation from VOLUME10 on the importance of international students was shared with Senators ahead of the meeting. Félix-Antoine Jolicoeur and Béatrice Girardin from VOLUME10 gave a short presentation.

14. Question period

There were a few questions about the litigation with the government and what the next steps are going to be.

Dr. Carr explained that the government had nine months since the judgment was delivered to come back with a revised plan, as it applied to Rest of Canada tuition. The piece around francisation was ruled in the University's favor and as such there was no further action for the University. Once the government decides on the revised plan, the next steps would be determined.

On a question about GLEAN and accommodation requests from students and the discussions at Senate on the Policy of Recordings, Dr. Carr and F. Diamantoudi explained that discussions were still ongoing with CUFA on this matter and a revised communication would be issued. As the University must comply with the law, all accommodation requests will continue to be dealt with under the existing policy.

On the call for student strikes next week, concerns around safety on campus and the University's response were expressed. Dr. Carr underlined that everyone must comply with the University's policies, including the *Code of Rights and Responsibilities* (BD-3). He emphasized that there was no tolerance at the University for any sort of violence or for the disruption of classes and other academic activities.

15. Other business

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

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of Senate