

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

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.  
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room (EV 2.260)  
on the SGW Campus and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting members:

Graham Carr (Chair)	Lina El-Bakaye	Xavier Ottenwaelder (zoom)
Saraluz Barton-Gomez	Zoe Erika-Okoye	Véronique Pepin
Theresa Bianco	Tim Evans	Isabella Providenti
Patrice Blais	Ariela Freedman	Isabelle Ranger
Onur Bodur (zoom)	Annie Gérin	Rosemary Reilly (zoom)
Narmine Boubasla	Michael Gillis	Aphrodite Salas
Cynthia Bruce	Eléanore Handsone	Adam Semergian
Amy Buckland	Andrea Harland	Anna Sheftel
Robin Chemtov	Steven Henle (zoom)	Pascale Sicotte
Roy Cross	Maggie McDonnell	Kamila Sobol
Anne-Marie Croteau	Christopher Moore	Reza Soleymani (zoom)
Fabienne Cyrius	Peter Morden (zoom)	Ahmed Soliman
Mourad Debbabi	Catherine Mulligan	Preethi Srikanth (zoom)
Effrosyni Diamantoudi	Muhammad Ilyas Nadeem	Huu Thien Tran
Geoffrey Dover	(zoom)	Radu Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Charmian Harvey (attended as delegate for P. Beauregard) (zoom), Stéphanie de Celles, Michael Di Grappa, Frederica Jacobs, Kathleen Lizé, Frederica Martin, Brad Nelson, Olivia Ward

Also attending: Caroline Baril, Rachel Berger, Sandra Betton, Richard Courtemanche, Richard DeMont, Julie Fortier (zoom), Shelina Houssenaly Kassim (zoom), Aaron Johnson, Benoit Léger, Xiodan Pan, Emad Shihab, Nancy St-Onge, Aisha Topsakal, Manon Tremblay, Rusdam Vahidov, Christine York (zoom)

ABSENT

Voting members:

Seif Bedair	Vanessa Massot	Sina Queyras
Alexandra Dawson	Sanaz Naghdi	Ramin Sedaghati
Moshe Lander	Mireille Paquet	Roberto Viereck-Salinas

Non-voting member: Paul Chesser, Isabel Dunnigan, Tom Hughes

**1. Call to order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

**1.1 Approval of the Agenda**

*R-2026-1-1 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved with item 4 being moved to the Regular Agenda.*

**1.2 Adoption of December 12, 2025 Minutes**

*R-2026-1-2 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 12, 2025 be adopted.*

**CONSENT**

**2. Committee reports (Document US-2026-1-D1)**

The reports were provided for information only.

**3. APC recommendation: FA-FA-5891 – Regulation Change – (Readmitted students have the same two options as conditional standing students) (Document US-2026-1-D2)**

*R-2026-1-3 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the proposed undergraduate curriculum regulation change: FA-FA-5891 – Regulation Change (Readmitted students have the same two options as conditional standing students).*

**REGULAR**

**4. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda**

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

On a question that was asked at a previous meeting of Senate, the Chair confirmed that the Report on Indigenous Directions will be unveiled on Orange Shirt Day. There was also a follow up question on the status of the recommendations made by the Ombudsperson, which were reported to Senate in December. The Secretary of Senate confirmed that they would follow up with the Ombuds Office.

## 5. President's remarks

- Dr. Carr began his report with the political updates. There is unpredictability with the leadership races underway in the *Parti libéral du Québec* and in the CAQ following the Premier's decision to step down early January 2026. The government is continuing to proceed with its legislative agenda: Bill 1 (new constitution) and Bill 9 (laïcité), which are in addition to the proposed budget in March.
- On Bill 9, the university sector has identified a host of problematic issues involving the lack of clarity, confusion, misunderstanding of universities' realities, as well as the inoperability of what is proposed. The major academic issue of concern is any measure that would prevent students from fulfilling their degree requirements, such as being prevented from doing teacher training in public schools because of the clothing one wears.
- Universities are also joining their voices to other organizations – including municipalities, chambres du commerce, hospitals, and employer networks -- requesting that the government re-open access to the *PEQ*.
- On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the ministry informed McGill and Concordia that it had issued new *Règles budgétaires* (RB's) that would maintain the differential tuition for Rest of Canada students at ~\$12K as opposed to \$9K per year. The main argument made by the government in response to the court's decision was that Québec taxpayers should not bear the cost of educating students from elsewhere (even though students from Québec studying elsewhere in Canada do not pay differential fees). No additional justification was required by the government. The decision is disappointing as it goes on to say that students from the Rest of Canada in French programs will pay a lower fee.
- The *Vérificateur générale du Québec* issued a report in November on the government's management of the international student question. The report was highly critical of the government, pointing out the lack of assessment of the impact of the measures and the inefficiencies in the initial selection process for qualified students.

- Dr. Carr reported that for the whole academic year – summer, fall and winter – the University’s overall FTEs (all cycles) are marginally higher than was the case last academic year (2024-25). However, these numbers are unfortunately still lower than the numbers in any previous years. The goal is that, with the slight uptick in applications, these interests will be converted in registrations in the coming weeks.
- The next phase is critical, as the University needs to close the remaining budget deficit of ~\$12M to meet the recovery plan target for fiscal year 2025-26
- The Interim Provost, Faye Diamantoudi, has been meeting with every department to give accurate information on the budget situation and identify challenges that the University faces. These departmental visits have focused on how departments can reimagine or develop new programs aimed at revenue generation.
- On the non-academic side, Dr. Carr has held meetings to solicit ideas and proposals for cost-efficiencies and potential new sources of revenue.
- February 21<sup>st</sup> will be the Winter Open House, which, though smaller than the Fall Open House, remains an important opportunity to recruit and seed interest among potential future students.
- A hold for March 27<sup>th</sup> was circulated for the proposed Senate retreat (scheduled to take place before the Senate meeting on the afternoon of the same day). The purpose of the retreat is to facilitate a working session for Senate to look beyond the current challenging reality in which the University is operating and to begin focusing on aspirational objectives for the future, for 2030 and beyond.
- The University remains committed to delivering top-ranked academic programs in many fields, leading cutting-edge areas of research, and showcasing initiatives – such as work-integrated learning and transformative projects such as PLAN/NET ZERØ - that are vastly expanding Concordia’s partnership base, which includes a rapidly expanding and increasingly influential alumni network that supports the University’s success.
- Although not yet finalized, tentatively the proposed agenda of the Senate retreat will include:
  - A presentation on the budget from F. Diamantoudi to ground our immediate and longer-term thinking in terms of the University’s financial outlook;

- A discussion of critical factors that are currently disrupting - or are bound to transform - the higher education landscape. These factors could be technology changes, such as AI; demographic trends; political and geopolitical factors locally and internationally, etc.; and
  - A discussion identifying some aspirational objectives and/or bold new directions for Concordia that could identify new priorities and initiatives to help us deliver our nine strategic directions beyond 2030.
- Dr. Carr now moved to share some accomplishments, noting that six members of the University community were named to the Order of Canada on New Year's Day, including Martha Langford, who has just retired as a professor of Art History, where she was director of the Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art.
  - The Winter Olympic Games in Milan and Cortina will be underway soon and the University is honored to share that Concordia alumnus and assistant coach of the Stingers men's hockey team Jim Corsi was one of the torchbearers of the Olympic flame as it made its way through Italy.
  - Other names include:
    - Marion Thénault, an undergraduate student in aerospace engineering who is competing in in aerial skiing;
    - Zachary Lagha, a third-year student in Contemporary Dance who will participate in Ice Dance (with his partner, Marjorie Lajoie);
    - Emma Nonnenmacher, an undergraduate psychology student who is playing for Team France in women's ice hockey;
    - joined by Alice Philbert, a recent graduate of Concordia in Therapeutic Recreation and Business Administration (Alice was a former Stinger and Emma is a current Stinger);
    - Anton Jacobs-Webb, an undergraduate student in mechanical engineering who will play on the Canadian Men's Para-Ice Hockey team at his 2<sup>nd</sup> Olympics; and
    - Caroline Ouelette, a university honorary doctorate and former assistant hockey coach of the women's Stingers who is now assistant coach of the Canadian women's hockey team;
    - and Julien Brisebois, EMBA graduate and General Manager of the Tampa Bay Lightning, who is the Assistant Manager of the Canadian men's hockey team.

## 6. **Academic update** (Document US-2026-1-D4)

There were no additional updates to the report that was provided. F. Diamantoudi noted that a presentation session for student groups around the University's budget was being planned.

## 7. **Annual report from the Office of Rights and Responsibilities**

The Director of the Office of Rights and Responsibilities, Aisha Topsakal, presented the report.

The reporting period covered May 2024 to April 30, 2025, where the office managed 507 files, which was an increase from 450 the previous year; an increase of 15%. The vast majority of the files involved confidential consultations, many of which were early interventions to address concerns before they become cases of concerns.

A. Topsakal, noted that there has been a push to move to formal complaints. This trend is indicative of campus climate, and the community members contacting the office were not inclined to informal complaints.

To illustrate the work of the Office, A. Topsakal provided three examples of cases that the Office handles, which included one case where the Office responded to instances of use of physical force and illegal activity by a member of the community, a second case related to a faculty member bullying a staff member, and a third case of a situation in a lab with a student who needed support and was put in touch with the required resources. These examples underscore the complexity of the work of the office, given the large community that it serves.

A. Topsakal concluded by expressing gratitude on behalf of the Office for the privilege of serving the community.

## 8. **Approval of Policy on Research Entities (VPRII-8)** (Document US-2026-1-D3)

Tim Evans presented the dossier. Senators had specific questions on the deletion of the specific mention of community related research. T. Evans explained that with the University signing the Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA) framework in 2024, which framework is inclusive of community related research, it was determined that there wasn't a continued need to explicitly refer to community related research in the policy.

There were other questions regarding the expectation for mobilization of external resources for research entities. It was confirmed that the policy accommodates research entities whose resources are not dependent on external funding.

A detailed discussion followed where other concerns were raised, including the request that the link to the procedures in the revised policy document be updated to reflect the current state of the procedures on the understanding that procedures are a living document and that Senate's role is strictly to approve the policy.

After a lengthy discussion around the above noted items, it was agreed that the policy dossier would be withdrawn at this time. This would permit concerns raised by Senators to be reflected in a minimally revised dossier that would be brought back to Senate for consideration and approval.

**9. APC recommendations:**

**9.1. New program - JMSB-SCBTM-5777 - New Undergraduate Program: BComm in Business Analytics (Document US-2026-1-D6)**

This dossier was presented by Dean Croteau as a new program: BComm in Business Analytics. There were no questions.

*R-2026-1-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the New Undergraduate Program: BComm in Business Analytics (JMSB-SCBTM-5777).*

**9.2. Program change - AS-FRAN-5833 - Création d'un nouveau cheminement au sein de la Maîtrise en traductologie : recherche-crédation (avec mémoire) (Document US-2026-1-D7)**

Dean Sicotte presented the dossier and R. Courtemanche provided some details, following which Benoit Léger briefly explained that the new pathway of research creation is recognized by granting agencies and also the University, and has no additional resource implication.

There were no questions.

*R-2026-1-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the Graduate Program Regular Curriculum Change (AS-FRAN-5833).*

**9.3. New graduate program - AS-HKAP-3301 - Master's in Science degree (Athletic Therapy) (Document US-2026-1-D8)**

Dean Sicotte presented the dossier and R. Courtemanche provided some details, including the multiple support letters for the program that have been received from various groups in the athletic therapy domain.

G. Dover reiterated that most healthcare professionals are at graduate level, and that this is a timely change to the program as Athletic Therapy will be included as a professional category in the *Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec*.

There were no questions.

*R-2026-1-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon*

*recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the new graduate program Master's in Science degree (Athletic Therapy) (AS-HKAP-3301).*

**9.4. Regulation change – JMSB-MSCM-5876 – dual-option model: (1) a research thesis option and (2) a supervised project option within the Master of Supply Chain Management (Document US-2026-1-D9)**

Dean Croteau presented this item. Xiaodan Pan, Graduate Program Director spoke to the new structure 21 credit thesis based. The goal is to provide students impactful research opportunities and bring industry and university together. With the problems in the Canadian economy around supply chain logistics, this program will contribute to provide this specific expertise to students.

There were no questions.

*R-2026-1-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the regulation and program changes to the Master of Supply Chain Management (JMSB-MSCM-5876).*

**10. Question period**

A question was raised on discussion of Senate governance at the proposed retreat. It was advised the purpose of the retreat was not to discuss Senate governance, but the suggestion would be taken under advisement.

There were a few questions around the budget cuts and whether the cuts would impact the number of course sections offered. It was confirmed that the current number of course sections would be preserved.

To a question on when the report of the STRIVE Task Force was expected to be released, it was noted that the report with recommendations was being finalized by the STRIVE Steering Committee. The Chair confirmed that the report would be released after final reviews, and that an implementation committee would be struck with a view to making the recommendations actionable.

On the judgement rendered on the tuition dossier, a question was raised about whether the judge would review the response provided by the government. It was clarified that the judge's mandate on the matter concluded when they rendered the judgement, and therefore that the government's response did not have to be approved by the courts.

To a question about the impact of the non-renewal of LTA contracts and other budgetary cuts on student access to courses, it was confirmed that the University is considering all options, including new micro-programs and other course offerings, to ensure that recruitment and retention is at the heart of all decisions.

There was a question about Bill 9 and its impact on students and their ability to complete their internships, as some education students are experiencing challenges with their internships because they are not allowed to wear head coverings in classrooms. Dr. Carr clarified that Bill 9 has not yet been passed, and the challenges that students are experiencing in their internships are a result of Bill 94, which was adopted a few years ago to address secularism and what teachers are permitted to wear in classrooms. However, Bill 9 compounds this problem which is a concern for all universities.

To a question regarding government funding and tuition increases, it was clarified that the provincial government sets limits of what is allowable in terms of tuition increases. In the past, the formula was based on change of family income. However, the government has recently moved away from applying that formula in favour of a more discretionary approach.

A Senator noted that out of province students who were enrolled before the tuition fee increase are now unable to change programs without having to pay the new increased tuition rates. Could these students who wish to change programs also qualify for the scholarships offered to incoming students to offset the tuition increase? The University has repeatedly raised this issue to the government as this is not a problem unique to Concordia, but across the réseau. However, the government has not changed the policy. It was explained that the scholarships offered are subject to available funding - which is very limited - and as such the scholarship program for newly admitted students was not extended to students who are already enrolled.

#### **11. Other business**

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

#### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned 4:20 p.m.

*K. Singh*  
Karan Singh  
Secretary of Senate