

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 4 p.m.
in Room GM 410 (Board of Governors Meeting Room)
located on the 4th floor of the Guy-Metro Building,
1550 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West
on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Governors: Norman Hébert jr., *Chair*, Helen Antoniou Molson, Françoise Bertrand, *Vice-Chair*, Sandra Betton, Theresa Bianco, Jeff Bicher, Antoinette Bozac, Daniel Cross, Jean-Pierre Desrosiers, Hélène Fortin, Rahul Kumar, Mélanie La Couture, Tony Loffreda, William Lynch, Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, Maria Peluso, Philippe Pourreaux, Suzanne Sauvage, Frances Shaver, Alan Shepard, *President and Vice-Chancellor*

Alternate Governor: Terry Wilkings

Non-voting Observer: Jonathan Wener, *Chancellor*

Also attending: Philippe Beauregard, Sylvie Bourassa, Graham Carr, William Cheaib, Denis Cossette, Roger Côté, Bram Freedman, Frederica Jacobs, Justin Powlowski

ABSENT

Governors: Gabriel Bran Lopez, Gina P. Cody, Frédérica Martin, *Vice-Chair*, Michael Novak, Georges Paulez

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Hébert called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Board members joined the Chair in congratulating Ms. Bertrand who will be receiving the award *Grand Phénicia 2017* on May 25 from the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Quebec to mark her engagement as an ally of the LGBT business community.

1.1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2017-2-5 *That the Agenda be approved, including the items on the Consent Agenda, with the removal of item 6 from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.*

CONSENT2. Adoption of January 19, 2017 Minutes

R-2017-2-6 *That the Minutes of the meeting of the Open Session of January 19, 2017 be approved.*

3. Request for the use of the Concordia name:3.1 Concordia Moot Law Society (Document BG-2017-2-D3)

R-2017-2-7 *That the request to use the Concordia name by Concordia Moot Law Society, subject to the conditions set out in the Policy on the Use of Concordia University's Name, Logo and Related Insignia, and the Governance of its Visual Character and Digital Presence ([SG-4](#)), be approved.*

3.2 Concordia Student Tai Chi Club (Document BG-2017-2-D4)

R-2017-2-8 *That the request to use the Concordia name by Concordia Student Tai Chi Club, subject to the conditions set out in the Policy on the Use of Concordia University's Name, Logo and Related Insignia, and the Governance of its Visual Character and Digital Presence ([SG-4](#)), be approved.*

3.3 Concordia Fintech Society (Document BG-2017-2-D5)

R-2017-2-9 *That the request to use the Concordia name by Concordia Fintech Society, subject to the conditions set out in the Policy on the Use of Concordia University's Name, Logo and Related Insignia, and the Governance of its Visual Character and Digital Presence ([SG-4](#)), be approved.*

4. Collection of undergraduate student fee levies4.1 L'Organe fee levy (Document BG-2017-2-D6)

R-2017-2-10 *That the Board of Governors authorize the University to reinstate the collection of a fee levy of \$0.06 per credit from all undergraduate students to support L'Organe, to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2017 term (2017/2), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.*

4.2 CSU Daycare & Nursery and Student Space, Accessible Education & Legal Contingency Fund fee levies (Document BG-2017-2-D7)

R-2017-2-11 *That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a fee levy of \$0.24 per credit from all undergraduate students to support the CSU Daycare & Nursery, annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2017 term (2017/2), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.*

R-2017-2-12 *That the Board of Governors authorize the University to collect a decreased fee levy of \$0.76 per credit (decrease of \$0.24 per credit from \$1.00 per credit) from all undergraduate students to support the Student Space, Accessible Education & Legal Contingency Fund (SSAELC), annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Fall 2017 term (2017/2), in accordance with the University billing, refund and withdrawal policy.*

5. Audit Committee report (Document BG-2017-2-D8)

5.1 Reappointment of external auditors (Document BG-2017-2-D9)

R-2017-2-13 *That, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton be reappointed external auditors of Concordia University for the fiscal year ending on April 30, 2018.*

5.2 Revisions to the Policy concerning the Management, Access, and Use of Institutional Advancement Data (VPAER-2) (Document BG-2017-2-D10)

R-2017-2-14 *That, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Policy concerning the Management, Access, and Use of Institutional Advancement Data (VPAER-2), as outlined in Document BG-2017-2-D10.*

7. Governance and Ethics Committee report (Document BG-2017-2-D12)

8. Real Estate Planning Committee report (Document BG-2017-2-D13)

These reports are provided for information purposes.

REGULAR

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

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

10. President's report (Document BG-2017-2-D14)

As complementary information to his written report, the President's oral report included an update on some activities around the campus as well as a follow-up in connection with the March 1 bomb threat. He noted that in these volatile times, the University is looking into initiatives to preserve and communicate its diversity and celebrate its strength.

Following his report, he responded to questions.

11. Name change of Department of Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering to Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering (Document BG-2017-2-D15)

The Provost noted that this proposal aims to align the name of the department with the scope of its activities.

R-2017-2-15 *That, on recommendation of Senate, the Board of Governors approve the name change of Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering to Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, effective May 1, 2017.*

12. Report on compliance with environmental legislation and health and safety (EH&S) regulations (Document BG-2017-2-D16)

Mr. Côté summarized the key elements of the report, noting the introduction of new benchmarks based on some used by other Quebec universities. He underlined that awareness raising regarding campus safety is tracking well and that more risk assessments are being conducted. Following his summary, he responded to questions.

13. Update on strategic directions

Prof. Shepard provided a high-level summary of some of the ongoing initiatives under the guidance of the game plan, developed at the conclusion of the strategic planning process, which includes a priority list of “first moves” undertaken in 2016/2017.

Using a power point presentation, he gave an overview of some of those “first moves” which include:

- Investing in exceptional young researchers who accelerate the research programs by funding 24 to 30 two-year fellowships in disciplines linked to our strategic research priorities.
- Establishing and mandating an Indigenous Directors Leadership Group, led by Elizabeth Fast and Charmaine Lyn, the two Special Advisors to the Provost, to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action.
- Creating a public scholars program, in which 10 PhD candidates have begun receiving professional training in topics such as op-ed writing, public speaking, government relations and media relations. This is a new component of an existing program developed with the *Montréal Gazette* to bridge the gap between academic research and the community.
- The biggest strategic directions commitment in curriculum and program development is the establishment of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering Department and its related certificate and diploma programs.
- Two of the targeted three curriculum developers have been hired. Beyond Chemical and Materials Engineering offerings, priority curriculum projects include:
 - o Master’s in human-computer interaction
 - o JMSB undergraduate core curriculum rethink
 - o Cinema undergraduate curriculum rethink
 - o Online master’s program in music therapy
 - o New undergraduate major in Law and Society
 - o Game studies and game design program offerings
 - o Master’s in nanoscience/nanotechnology

- The Faculties, School of Graduate Studies, and research centres have developed some compelling summer offerings aimed at student recruitment, research profile building and community engagement under the following themes:
 - o Indigenous entrepreneurship
 - o The Anthropocene
 - o Science journalism
 - o Aerospace
 - o Cybersecurity
 - o NetZero energy greenhouse farming
 - o An acting studio
 - o Aging
 - o Portfolio workshops
 - o An offering called the City Bureau, organized by the Institute for Urban Futures, which will include a wide range of offerings like juried design competitions, mini-courses, and a Smart Cities innovation project.

Part of a broader effort to build a Summer@Concordia program is to make better use of the University's facilities in the summer and use the amazing experience of Montreal in the summer months as an attractant.

- The launch in October of the Concordia University Press, a non-profit, open access publisher of scholarly peer-reviewed titles, which diversifies the publishing landscape by offering authors a credible, trusted option for the production, dissemination and preservation of their works.
- Other ongoing initiatives include:
 - o District 3 expansion
 - o Experts-in-residence program
 - o Cluster hiring initiatives
 - o Staff development initiatives
 - o CEGEP pathway development
 - o Cotutelle development
 - o Social innovation network

The President concluded his presentation by noting that the movement of Montreal to the top of the QS Best Student Cities list was quite a coup and that the University should determine how best to leverage this status. Application numbers are quite strong and this ranking could be used to entrench Concordia as an international destination university.

Following his presentation, Prof. Shepard responded to comments and questions.

6. Finance Committee report (Document BG-2017-2-D11)

When asked for a sense of the key components being considered to reduce the deficit in the 2017/2018 budget referred to in the report, Dr. Carr explained that the budget review working group meets with all the Deans, the University Librarian and the service sectors to ensure understanding of their budget needs and set the top priorities. This working

group is looking at various scenarios and will continue to prioritize academic and research activities, but at this point the level of government investment is unknown. He reiterated that the commitment to advance the strategic directions is a core principal.

Mr. Cossette made the point that in order to receive the government's conditional grant, the University must take steps to reduce its deficit and demonstrate improvement to that effect. Dr. Carr added that the ability to recruit students is a key factor to address the deficit.

Following a query regarding the last capital budget and the outcome of proposals for funding of equipment and software made last December, Mr. Cossette responded that a global amount is set out each year and that the requests from all sectors are prioritized. The review and prioritization of capital needs is done concurrently with the review of the operating budget. At the suggestion of the President, the Chair urged Dr. Lynch to address any questions specific to his Faculty directly to Mr. Cossette after the meeting.

14. Other business

Mr. Hébert apprised the Board of the receipt of a number of postcards from students, urging the University to divest its investments in the fossil fuel industry. He noted that the University's Foundation has already taken a step in this direction by creating a sustainable investment fund, in which \$5 million of its assets have been transferred, and that discussions are ongoing between the various stakeholders and the University Foundation regarding Concordia's commitment to sustainable investing.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors