

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, November 10, 2017, at 2 p.m.
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Paul Allen; Amir Asif; Reena Atanasiadis; Patrice Blais; Rory Blaisdell; Steven Brown; Philippe Caignon; Saul Carliner; Graham Carr; Mikaela Clark-Gardner; Frank Crooks; Anne-Marie Croteau; Ricardo Dal Farra; Jill Didur; Charles Draimin; Rebecca Duclos; Marcie Frank; Vince Graziano; Brigitte Jaumard; Chiranjeevi Koduri; Mahesh Natarajan; Lorraine Oades; Virginia Penhune; John Potvin; Martin Pugh; André Roy; Jonathan Roy; Daniel Salée; Francesca Scala; Yousef Shayan; Ali Sherra; Thufile Sirajudeen; Robert Soroka; Marc Steinberg; Shaumia Suntharalingam; Julia Suter Sardo; Leyla Sutherland; Sofière Tahar; Christopher Trueman; Jean-Philippe Warren; Paula Wood-Adams; Sharon Yonan Renold

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Roger Côté; Isabel Dunnigan; Emmet Henchey; Frederica Jacobs; Lisa Ostiguy; Daniel Therrien

ABSENT

Voting members: Mohamed Allalou; Guylaine Beaudry; Pascale Biron; Christine DeWolf; Christophe Guy; Tevfik Karatop; David Morris; Harald Proppe; Omar Riaz

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard; Denis Cossette; Bram Freedman

1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2017-7-1 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of October 13, 2017

R-2017-7-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of October 13, 2017 be approved.*

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

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

3. President's remarks

The President apprised Senators that the public launch of the comprehensive campaign occurred during the Chancellor's Builders Dinner held on November 1, at which time the Chancellor announced his gift of \$10 million, one of the largest that the University has ever received. The goal of \$250 million, half of which has been raised, will support the initiatives under the nine strategic directions.

He thanked faculty, staff and students who volunteered at the Open House held on October 28, which was attended by more than 6,000 participants from Montreal and abroad.

Prof. Shepard updated Senators on other ongoing items and congratulated:

- Christophe Guy who has been awarded the Prix du Québec's Armand-Frappier Award for his distinguished career in the development and promotion of research;
- Paula Wood-Adams who has been reappointed as Dean of Graduate Studies for a second term commencing on July 1, 2018; and
- D'Arcy Ryan who was appointed Director of Recreation and Athletics.

4. Academic update (Document US-2017-7-D1)

Reporting on behalf of Dr. Carr, Dr. Ostiguy encouraged Senators to support students by attending the upcoming November 20 convocation ceremonies. She noted that Bob Fews was retiring. Dean Asif conveyed the latter's vision which was instrumental in the development of Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation and underlined his contributions to experiential learning.

CONSENT

5. Committee appointments (Document US-2017-7-D2 - Revised)

R-2017-7-3 *That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2017-7-D2 (Revised), be approved.*

6. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2017-7-D3)

6.1 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science – ENCS undergraduate programs (Document US-2017-7-D4)

R-2017-7-4 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Document US-2017-7-D4, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-7-D3.*

6.2 Changes to undergraduate procedures and regulations - Office of the Registrar (Document US-2017-7-D5)

R-2017-7-5 *That the changes to the undergraduate procedures and regulations, outlined in Document US-2017-7-D5, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-7-D3.*

6.3 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

6.3.1 Department of Applied Human Sciences (Document US-2017-7-D6)

6.3.2 Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics (Document US-2017-7-D7)

6.3.3 Department of Communication Studies (Document US-2017-7-D8)

6.3.4 Department of Education (Documents US-2017-7-D9 and D10)

6.3.5 Département d'Études françaises (Document US-2017-7-D11)

6.3.6 Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability (Document US-2017-7-D13)

R-2017-7-6 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-7-D6 to D11 and D13, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-7-D3.*

6.4 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science – Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering (Document US-2017-7-D15)

R-2017-7-7 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Document US-2017-7-D15, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-7-D3.*

6.5 Undergraduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Fine Arts – Department of Theatre (Document US-2017-7-D16)

R-2017-7-8 *That the undergraduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts, outlined in Documents US-2017-7-D16, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-7-D3.*

6.6 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Arts and Science

6.6.1 Department of Applied Human Sciences (Document US-2017-7-D17)

6.6.2 Department of Philosophy (Document US-2017-7-D18)

6.6.3 Department of Sociology and Anthropology (Documents US-2017-7-D19 and D20)

R-2017-7-9 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-7-D17 to D20, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-7-D3.*

6.7 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science – Centre for Engineering in Society (Document US-2017-7-D21)

R-2017-7-10 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Document US-2017-7-D21, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-7-D3.*

6.8 Graduate curriculum changes – John Molson School of Business – PhD program in Business Administration (Document US-2017-7-D22)

R-2017-7-11 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the John Molson School of Business, outlined in Document US-2017-7-D22, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-7-D3.*

REGULAR

7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2017-7-D3)

7.1 New undergraduate programs – Faculty of Arts and Science

7.1.1 Department of Exercise Science – BSc Honours in Kinesiology and Clinical Exercise Physiology and BSc Honours in Athletic Therapy (Document US-2017-7-D12)

7.1.2 School of Community and Public Affairs – Certificate in Immigration Studies and Minor in Immigration Studies (Document US-2017-7-D14)

The Chair of the Department of Exercise Science, Richard Courtemanche, summarized the highlights of the two new Honours programs which will enable students to complete the professional requirements of their programs while providing them an opportunity to be exposed to research-oriented skills and careers.

The Principal of the School of Community and Public Affairs, Chedly Belkhodja, indicated that the two new programs respond to the rising level of immigration and the debate over immigration and diversity. The Minor is directed at students already in Concordia programs while the Certificate is directed at professionals already working in the field or individuals wishing to pursue a career in immigration.

R-2017-7-12 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the new undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-7-D12 and D14, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-7-D3.*

8. Recommendation regarding an amendment to the membership of Senate to add a non-voting member from among the ENCS part-time faculty members (Document US-2017-7-D23)

Dean Asif and Me Blais provided the context leading to the proposal to add an ENCS part-time faculty member as a non-voting member of Senate.

R-2017-7-13 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved:*

Whereas ENCS acknowledges the contributions of its part-time faculty members, including the fact the latter teach approximately 20% of the courses;

Whereas it is advisable to add a part-time faculty member from among ENCS as a non-voting member of Senate, until such time that the threshold set out in Article 61 k) of the By-Laws has been met, which would cause one of the five voting members to be a part-time faculty member;

Whereas, following discussions with the part-time faculty association, it has been agreed that this proposed non-voting seat be occupied by a part-time faculty member for a three-year term, pursuant to a call for nominations and election conducted from among part-time faculty members who have taught at least one course in ENCS in the last twelve months; and

Whereas it is understood that to remain eligible to serve on Senate for the full three-year term, the part-time faculty member must teach at least one course in ENCS in each of the first two years of his or her three-year term;

Be it resolved that, on recommendation of Steering Committee, Senate approve the addition of a part-time faculty member from ENCS as a non-voting member of Senate and recommend to the Board of Governors approval of the amendments set out in Articles 61 to 63 of the By-Laws.

9. Update on Bill 62 (Document US-2017-7-D24)

The President prefaced the discussion by noting that some departments (Communication Studies and History) as well as the CSU have issued statements denouncing Bill 62. While at this point he favors a more cautious and measured approach, he has nonetheless made it clear to the government that the law will be difficult to enforce, explained that the University does have mechanism to verify the identity of students and therefore there is no need for such a law at Concordia.

Mr. Sherra made the point that the University should affirm its values which are protected by the Quebec Charter of Rights and that Senate's position should be stronger. In this spirit, he moved an amendment to the last phrase of draft motion so that it read "*Be it further resolved that Senate object to **Bill 62 and** any actions that infringe upon those values.*"

A discussion ensued, during which three avenues were discussed, summarized as follows:

- 1) Adopt the draft motion with the proposed amendment.
- 2) Withdraw the motion since the constitutionality of the law is currently being challenged before the courts and the final outcome is unknown.
- 3) Adopt a motion endorsing the President's statement in lieu of adopting the proposed motion.

During the discussion, while various points of view were expressed, the majority of Senators who spoke indicated their support of the draft motion with the proposed amendment. Several Senators emphasized the importance of Senate being an active opponent and taking a strong, collective stand against Bill 62.

Pursuant to a vote, the majority of Senators voted in favor of amending the draft motion to include reference to Bill 62 as proposed by Mr. Sherra.

In the end, the President noted that all members of Senate are affected by this law and expressed the wish that Senate adopt a unified position, which resulted in the adoption of the following motion:

R-2017-7-14 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was resolved (Drainin requesting that his opposition be noted in the Minutes):

Whereas Concordia University represents a broad range of nationalities, cultures and faiths which cohabit peacefully;

Whereas this diversity is a great strength and contributes to the vitality of the University and Quebec society; and

Whereas members of the Concordia community have expressed concerns that Bill 62 (2017, chapter 19) and its regulations may limit access to higher education;

Be it resolved that Senate reaffirm the unifying values of Concordia University and its founding institutions as a secular university which is profoundly dedicated to freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, and access to higher education; and

Be it further resolved that Senate object to Bill 62 (2017, chapter 19) and any actions that infringe upon those values.

10. Presentation on the state of graduate studies

The Dean of Graduate Studies, Paula Wood-Adams, presented the highlights of the 2016 Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey. She noted that her presentation does not contain all survey results but focuses primarily on the strengths and opportunities identified in the survey, adding that Concordia has made significant improvements since the last survey which was conducted in 2013.

With respect to how graduate students rated their overall university experience, it increased by 8% since 2013, with 57% of graduate students rating the quality of their experience as very good or excellent. Equally up by 8% is the rating of quality of student life experience, Concordia having gone from below the national average in 2013 to above the national average. Dean Wood-Adams indicated that a number of initiatives, such as GradProSkills, the Graduate Community Building Fund, and the Student Success Centre, have likely contributed to improvements in the quality of student life experience. Compared to 2013, there was a 5% increase in the number of students who were more likely to recommend Concordia to someone considering their program, going from 68% to 73%.

The response to a new question added to 2016 survey on research and international shows that 47% of Concordia graduate student reported having had the opportunity to collaborate on research internationally, which is above the Canadian average of 43%. When asked if they had the opportunity to study abroad 46% of Concordia students responded yes, compared to the Canadian average of 43%.

In reference to the slide on advice and workshops on academic writing, Dean Wood-Adams made the point that these are really important issues, since they deal with the ability to write clearly, concisely and correctly, noting that the gain of 11% over the results of 2013 could be attributable to GradProSkills offers of workshops in partnership with the Student Success Center and the Library. She also listed a few initiatives which could explain why the rating regarding career related advice and workshops went up by 17% since 2013.

Dean Wood-Adams noted the areas which had slightly improved since 2013, which could be identified as opportunities for higher ratings. These include the quality of academic experience and quality of graduate and professional programs, intellectual quality, and collaboration with faculty. The survey revealed a large gap between Concordia and Canadian averages for the perceived intellectual quality of faculty and fellow students.

However, she noted that this perceived weakness may be linked to the relationship between faculty and graduate students but specified that increased guidance and collaboration could lead to an improvement in this relationship. Among the other areas identified as opportunities were the ability of graduate students to conduct independent research, more workshops focused on research methods and more opportunities for experiential learning.

Dean Wood-Adams concluded her presentation by providing a brief overview of some initiatives, such as GradProSkills, which offer workshops in eight skill domains, the Graduate Community Building Fund, which provides grants to organize activities outside of the curriculum and the Public Scholars program, which provides training to PhD candidates on how to present their research outside the University.

11. Annual report of the Office of Rights and Responsibilities (Document US-2017-7-D25)

Interim Director Lisa White summarized the mandate of the Office of Rights and Responsibilities (ORR) and presented the highlights of the annual report, including some key statistics. She informed Senators that following the adoption of the *Policy regarding Sexual Violence*, ORR works together with the Sexual Assault Resource Centre. To illustrate the type of situations that ORR deals with on a regular basis, Ms. White shared one narrative regarding a student of concern.

12. Annual report of the Ombuds Office (Document US-2017-7-D26)

Ombudsperson Amy Fish presented the highlights of the annual report, including some key statistics. To illustrate the type of concerns and issues the Ombuds Office deals with on a regular basis, Ms. Fish provided an example of a case involving an undergraduate student seeking an academic re-evaluation.

13. Question period

In response to Me Blais' query about representations from the Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire (BCI) in response to the introduction by Minister David of Bill 151 (*An Act to Prevent and Fight Sexual Violence in Higher Education Institutions*), Me Jacobs said that with one important difference the draft legislation is very close to the University's *Policy regarding Sexual Violence* (PRVPAA-3).

She added that following an initial meeting that had already taken place to discuss this draft legislation, Lisa Ostiguy, Melodie Sullivan and Lisa White would be meeting again next week to discuss the draft legislation and to provide comments to BCI for submission to the government. Me Jacobs clarified that the main difference relates to how the legislation treats certain intimate relationships.

14. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate