

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

Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 4 p.m.
Room GM 410 (Board of Governors meeting room)
SGW Campus

PRESENT

Governors:

Helen Antoniou (C)	Selvadurai Dayanandan	Catherine Loubier (zoom)
Francis Baillet	(V.C)	Harley Martin
Kenneth Brooks (zoom)	Pat Di Lillo (zoom)	Paul John Murdoch (zoom)
Graham Carr (P and Vice-C)	Adriana Embiricos	Duraichelvan Raju (zoom)
Jarett Carty	Kim Fuller	Rahul Ravi
Gary N. Chateram (zoom)	Caroline Jamet	Robert Soroka
Daniel Cross	Claude Joli-Coeur (V.C)	Ted Stathopoulos (zoom)
		Roula Zaarour (zoom)

Also attending:

Philippe Beauregard	Paul Chesser	Frederica Jacobs
Dominique Bérubé	Denis Cossette	Pascal Lebel
William Cheaib	Michael Di Grappa	Anne Whitelaw

Alternate Governor: Nassim Boutalbi (zoom)

Non-voting observer: Jonathan Wener (zoom)

ABSENT

Governors:

Rana Ghorayeb	Philippe Pourreaux	Cathy Wong
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LEGEND:

C: Chair

P and Vice-C: President and Vice Chancellor

V.C: Vice Chair

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

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

R-2023-9-1 That the Agenda be approved, including the items on the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT

2. Approval of September 28, 2023 Minutes

R-2023-9-2 That the Minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2023, be approved.

3. Request for the use of Concordia's Name (Document BG-2023-9-D1)

R-2023-9-3 That, 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) and its related Procedures, the Board of Governors approve the following requests to use the Concordia name:

- *EngiQueers Concordia*
- *Concordia Students Recreational Sports Club*
- *Ascend Concordia Student Group*
- *Concordia Sailing Club*
- *TEDx Concordia University Student Club*

4. Audit Committee recommendations:

4.1 **Système d'information financière des universités (SIFU) for the year ended April 30, 2023** (Document BG-2023-9-D2)

R-2023-9-4 That, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the Système d'information financière des universités (SIFU) for the year ended April 30, 2023.

4.2 **Interfund transfers for the year ended April 30, 2023** (Document BG-2023-9-D3)

R-2023-9-5 That, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the interfund transfers for the year ended April 30, 2023.

4.3 **État de traitement (statement of salaries) for the year ended April 30, 2023** (Document BG-2023-9-D4)

R-2023-9-6 That, following recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the état du traitement (statement of salaries) for the year

ended April 30, 2023.

5. Appointment to Administrative and Support Staff Tribunal Pool
(Document BG-2023-9-D5)

R-2023-9-7 *That, the appointment of Raja Bhattacharya as a member of the Administrative and Support Staff Tribunal Pool for a term beginning on October 26, 2023 and ending on August 31, 2025 be approved by the Board of Governors.*

REGULAR

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

There was no other business to bring before the meeting that was not included on the Agenda.

7. President's report (Document BG-2023-9-D6)

As complementary information to his written report, G. Carr's remarks are summarized as follows:

- Dr. Carr began by noting that the written President's report that was circulated to the Board contains many positive updates; however, the focus today will be on two major challenges that Concordia faces: the situation on campus following the violence in the Middle East, and the developments following the Québec government's recent announcement of substantial changes to university funding.
- Dr. Carr went on to address the situation in the Middle East. He spoke about the challenges universities were facing to manage life on campuses in the wake of the violence underway in the Middle East. He spoke to the expectations that existed for the University to declare a political position. He restated the University's role as a place for the peaceful exchange of ideas, and underlined that diversity is intrinsic to who Concordia is and that it is not the role of the University to editorialize on the topics of the day. The University must speak to the ensemble of the community with compassion for all members of the community – a difficult feat when the views are so polarizing. He affirmed that the University's core responsibility is to do the utmost to ensure that exchanges on campus are peaceful and respectful, and to provide support to students, faculty and staff to ensure that everyone feels safe on campus.
- Dr. Carr had recently attended the national meeting of university presidents in Ottawa, where these concerns were discussed. He observed that, no matter what the University said, it would not be possible to satisfy everyone's expectations as there are no right words to diffuse and mollify the diversity of opinions on this matter. The approach that Concordia is taking is to be measured in its public statements. He thanked the University team, particularly Anne Whitelaw, Nadia Hardy, Michael Di Grappa, Philippe Beauregard and the University Communications Services team, Pascal Lebel, the Dean of Students, the Equity Office and the Office of Rights and

Responsibilities, all of whom have been working day and night on this issue and on responding to the concerns of the community.

- Dr. Carr commented on the protest that was organized on campus the day before. While some community members were not happy that the protest had occurred, it went off peacefully and it was far preferable to allow things to proceed in that manner rather than to provoke a counter-reaction. Deploying the metaphor of a pot of water on a stove, he noted that all campuses in North America have reached a point where the water is boiling - not because of things caused by the universities - but because campuses are at the risk of becoming proxies of what is happening outside. The University cannot turn off the heat, the issues are too fraught - the task at hand is to ensure that the boiling pot doesn't overflow.
- Dr. Carr then went on to address the Québec government's recent announcement that out-of-province tuition fees would double and the funding formula for international students would be modified. These changes will have a significant impact on the University and its revenues, curtailing diversity and resulting in a significant decline in enrolment. Although these changes have been described as having an impact on universities across the sector, they will disproportionately affect Bishops, McGill, Concordia.
- The policy will also have an impact on the Montreal brand as one of the world's great university cities and to the image of Québec externally as a welcoming place eager to recruit and retain top talent to nurture the economy of the future.
- Since the government's announcement, Dr. Carr has met with the Minister of Higher Education, Pascale Déry, who is so far unyielding on this decision. Assessment and strategizing with his executive team are ongoing.
- Dr. Carr underlined the amazing work that the team at University Communications Services has done since the announcement, with a big thank you to Philippe Beauregard, Vannina Maestracci, Pascal Lebel, and William Cheaib for all their efforts. He then thanked community members who have mobilized in response to the government's announcement, adding that he was pleased about the support from Mayor Valerie Plante's office, the head of BMO Québec, and the leaders of the five francophone charter universities (Université de Montréal, Université Laval, Université de Sherbrooke, HEC Montréal and Polytechnique Montréal), who have all come out publicly against the policy.

8. Audit Committee recommendation: Audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2023 (Document BG-2023-9-D7)

The Chair of the Audit Committee introduced the item and complimented the University team and the auditors for the timeline completion of the annual audit. D. Cossette then went on to provide an overview of the audit.

The Chair noted an addition to the resolution to add the necessary signatories.

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

R-2023-9-8 That, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the financial statements for the fiscal year ended on April 30, 2023, as prepared by Concordia, and audited by the external auditors, KPMG.

That the Chair of the Board of Governors and the President and Vice-Chancellor be designated to sign the financial statements on behalf of the University.

9. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of the Board of Governors