

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, November 8, 2019
immediately following the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LL.D. Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Graham Carr (*Chair*); Ali Akgunduz; Bakry Alsaieq; Leslie Barker; Matthew Barker; Guylaine Beaudry; Arshdeep Singh Bhatia; Pascale Biron; Elizabeth Bloodgood; Catherine Bolton; Sally Cooke; Frank Crooks; Ricardo Dal Farra; Alex De Visscher; Rebecca Duclos; Linda Dyer; Medhi Farashahi; Ariela Freedman; Vince Graziano; Christophe Guy; Jarrad Hass; Chris Kalafatidis; Jooseop Lim (*Acting for Anne-Marie Croteau*); Esther Morand; Brad Nelson (*Acting for Paula Wood-Adams*); Helena Osana; Gilles Peslherbe; Colin Philip; Martin Pugh; Patrick Quinn; Marguerite Rolland; André Roy; Timir Baran Roy; Bayan Abu Safieh; Reza Soleymani; Robert Soroka; Ron Stern; Alex Stojda; Elizabeth Tasong; Marlana Valenta; Victoria Videira; Jean-Philippe Warren; Anne Whitelaw

Non-voting members: Philippe Beaugard; Johanne Beaudoin; Paul Chesser; Denis Cossette; Stéphanie de Celles; Isabel Dunnigan; Tom Hughes; Candace Jacobs; Melodie Sullivan (*Acting for Frederica Jacobs*)

ABSENT

Voting members: Shimon Amir; Amir Asif; Christopher Brett; Sue Callender; Mark Corwin; Catherine Russell; Anmol Singh; Matt Soar; Radu Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Nadia Hardy

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:26 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2019-6-6 *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 11, 2019

R-2019-6-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of October 11, 2019, 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 highlights of the President's remarks are summarized as follows:

- The John Molson MBA, moved up from 94th to 91st spot, one of four Canadian business schools and the only Quebec school in the top 100 in *The Economist* magazine's 2019 Which MBA? survey.
- The Saputo Family Foundation donated \$10 million to Concordia for the creation of the SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation.
- Concordia's Institute for Investigative Journalism team worked with *Le Devoir* and Global News to reveal that the province's lead-testing method underestimates exposure levels in drinking water.
- The School of Irish Studies celebrated its 10th anniversary.
- The various greening initiatives on the Loyola Campus, including a tree planting ceremony and the transformation of the former AD parking lot into an ecological pedestrian zone.
- He urged Senators to attend one or more of the November 18 Convocation ceremonies as well as to volunteer or donate to the annual Centraide campaign which runs until the end of November.
- The government of Quebec announced modifications to the Programme de l'expérience québécoise (PEQ) on November 4 without consulting the higher education sector. The modifications would severely restrict eligibility for international students planning to use an accelerated pathway for permanent residency in Canada. On November 6, the government added a grandfather clause to exempt students who arrived prior to November 1. The PEQ is an important tool to recruit international students and the entire Quebec university network is actively engaged on this file.

4. Academic update (Document US-2019-6-D2)

Dr. Whitelaw congratulated the faculty members and librarians who were granted tenure and/or promotions, whose names are listed in her written report.

As complementary information to her written report, she apprised Senate that JMSB placed 24th in the world in the 2019 *Corporate Knights* Better World MBA Ranking, moving up nine spots from its position last year.

5. Committee reports

5.1 **Academic Planning and Priorities** (Document US-2019-6-D3)

5.2 **Research** (Document US-2019-6-D4)

There were no questions on these reports which are provided for information.

CONSENT

6. **Committee appointments** (Document US-2019-6-D5)

R-2019-6-8 *That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2019-6-D5, be approved.*

7. **Academic Programs Committee - Report and recommendations** (Document US-2019-6-D6)

7.1 **Undergraduate curriculum proposals - Faculty of Arts and Science**

7.1.1 **Honours requirements** (Documents US-2019-6-D7 and D8)

7.1.2 **Department of Biology** (Document US-2019-6-D9)

7.1.4 **Department of English** (Document US-2019-6-D11)

7.1.5 **Liberal Arts College** (Document US-2019-6-D12)

7.1.6 **Department of Mathematics and Statistics** (Document US-2019-6-D13)

7.1.7 **Department of Philosophy** (Document US-2019-6-D14)

7.1.8 **Department of Physics** (Document US-2019-6-D15)

7.1.9 **Department of Religions and Cultures** (Document US-2019-6-D16)

7.1.10 **Department of Theology** (Document US-2019-6-D17)

7.1.11 **Simone de Beauvoir Institute** (Document US-2019-6-D18)

R-2019-6-9 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Science be approved.*

Consideration of item 7.1.3 regarding the Department of Economics (Document US-2019-6-D10) was removed from the Consent Agenda, since the documentation was incomplete. This dossier will be resubmitted for Senate approval in due course.

7.2 **Undergraduate curriculum proposals - Faculty of Fine Arts**

7.2.1 **Fine Arts Interdisciplinary Studies** (Document US-2019-6-D19)

7.2.2 **Department of Art History** (Document US-2019-6-D20)

7.2.3 **Department of Cinema** (Document US-2019-6-D21)

R-2019-6-10 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Fine Arts be approved.*

7.3 **Undergraduate curriculum proposal - Institute for Co-operative Education - Requirements** (Document US-2019-6-D22)

R-2019-6-11 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the Institute for Co-operative Education be approved.*

7.4 Undergraduate curriculum proposals – Office of the Registrar – Regulations
(Documents US-2019-6-D23 and D24)

R-2019-6-12 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the Office of the Registrar be approved.*

7.5 Graduate curriculum proposals – John Molson School of Business

7.5.1 Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (Document US-2019-6-D25)

7.5.2 Master of Business Administration (Document US-2019-6-D26)

R-2019-6-13 *That the graduate curriculum proposals in the John Molson School of Business be approved.*

REGULAR

8. Approval process of graduation list (Document US-2019-6-D27)

Dr. Whitelaw conveyed the reasons for proposing a different way of handling the final approval of the graduation list. She outlined the approval process at Faculty and School Councils, noting that very few Senators over the years have consulted the graduation list made available to Senators prior to the Senate meeting.

The point was made that the delegation of the approval of the graduation list to the Provost would necessarily entail that the revocation of a degree, although a very rare occurrence, would also be delegated to the Provost.

R-2019-6-14 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, on recommendation of Steering Committee, Senate delegate to the Provost and Vice-President, Academic the approval of the graduation list, as submitted by the University Registrar following approval of Faculty and School Councils;*

That the date of conferral indicated on the diploma be October 15 for the Fall and May 20 for the Spring;

That the approval of Faculty and School Councils must take place before the above dates of conferral; and

That the University Registrar provide to Senate a written report detailing the graduation statistics following each convocation ceremony.

9. Presentation by Concordia University Foundation on sustainable investments
(Document US-2019-6-D28)

Dr. Carr began by updating Senate on the some of the important work that has been going on across the University in the area of sustainability, in keeping with Concordia's values of environmental responsibility, social responsibility and sustainability. Currently, academic and operational units from across the University are finalizing their work on the sequencing and budgeting of Concordia's Sustainability Action Plan, which began in the Spring 2019 with public consultations and resulted in the establishment of working

groups for five streams – Food, Waste, Climate, Research and Curriculum -- to consider how best to prioritize and address recommendations on key issues. In addition to studying recommendations, unit leaders have been reviewing operational priorities that will help Concordia reach its carbon neutrality targets – a key element of the Action Plan.

In September, Concordia joined nine other Quebec universities in declaring a climate emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050 at the very latest. It is expected that the Sustainability Action Plan will be released in early 2020.

At the May Senate meeting, a commitment was made to invite Howard Davidson, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Concordia University Foundation, to Senate to report on the Foundation's recent activities in furthering our sustainable investment goals. Dr. Carr introduced Mr. Davidson, an alumnus and Governor Emeritus of the University, and President and Trustee of the Webster Foundation, one of Canada's leading private grants organizations and one that has been pivotal in helping Concordia achieve its goals.

Mr. Davidson apprised Senate that the Concordia University Foundation acts as the University's primary investment arm. It is an independent corporation, whose primary purpose is to be the University's best possible fund management partner, and whose mission is to use its resources exclusively to encourage the advancement and development of Concordia's teaching, research and charitable programs and initiatives. Concordia transfers certain donations and other funds to the Foundation for investment management.

As of April 30, 2019, the total value of its assets is \$243 million, comprised of an Endowment Fund which supports research and scholarship, a Long-Term Debt Fund used to repay the University's debt, and support for various University initiatives, including group benefits. To allow such annual distributions, we have to generate returns that are at least 6.25% or higher on an annual basis. This is a challenge to meet in a changing world.

Mr. Davidson conveyed the journey towards achieving sustainable investments which began more than six years ago following discussions with student leaders, including adopting a sustainable investment policy which integrates environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors and becoming a signatory of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). All this work has led to our exposure to the coal, oil and gas sectors being very low, which is at \$14 million or 5.7% of the Foundation's total asset value of \$243 million. He explained that one of the ways in which the Foundation fulfils this commitment is through implementing its Impact Investment Policy, whose value is about \$4.3 million and provided an example of how the Foundation is engaging in impact investing.

Mr. Cossette outlined the other steps that Concordia has taken in becoming a leader in sustainable investment. In February 2019, Concordia became Canada's first university to issue a sustainable bond, the proceeds of which will be used to cover Concordia's \$25.3 million share of the \$62 million invested into the new Science Hub, the new state-of-the-art scientific facility with the most cutting-edge and appropriate environments to

support Concordia's research community. He added that in March 2019 Concordia was ranked Quebec's most energy-efficient campus for the 21st consecutive year, and that Concordia's leadership in the area of responsible investment is acknowledged, it being called upon to present at many investments conferences and forums.

Looking towards the future, we recognize that the landscape is changing and we must change too. In the five years since the first creation of the sustainable investment fund, the Foundation's exposure to the coal, oil and gas sector has been reduced to 5.7% or about \$14 million, as noted by Mr. Davidson. Clearly, we have been listening and acting accordingly, making the right choices of where to invest. Mr. Cossette made the point that while 5.7% is already very low, if we are to continue to lead by example, we must be prepared to continue to make some bold choices.

Dr. Carr concluded the presentation by proudly announcing the following three important commitments as the next step in the University's journey within five years:

1. A reduction to zero of our investments in the coal, oil and gas sectors;
2. A commitment to 100% sustainable investments; and
3. A plan to double the portion of the Foundation's portfolio devoted to impact investment from the current 5% to 10%. In dollar figures, our goal is to be directing \$20 million toward impact investment by the year 2025.

He concluded by noting that with today's announcement, Concordia becomes the first university in Quebec to set a 100% target for sustainable investment that includes a premium on impact investment.

10. Question period

Further to a question from Mr. Quinn regarding the status of the Finance Committee of Senate, Dr. Carr explained that the Finance Committee was originally established in the mid-1990s as an ad hoc committee in a different context. During the past years, its primary mission has been to assess costing of new programs, and more recently Committee members expressed frustrations about its role. The financial information that the Committee was required to review had often already been approved and was presented in an inconsistent manner from one program to another. A new Letter of Intent (LOI) process is being tested for new programs, which includes a more systematic budget process. Therefore, Dr. Carr said that the operations of the Finance Committee have been suspended while the LOI process is being tested.

Pursuant to concerns expressed by Mr. Roy, Dr. Carr reiterated the actions that the University is taking in response to modifications to the Programme de l'expérience québécoise (PEQ).

11. Other business

There were no other business to bring before Senate.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate