

SENATE
Annual

Report
2020-2021

A
B
R
O
U
N
O
U

CONTENTS

3 CHAIR'S MESSAGE

4 MANDATE

4 STANDING COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE (APPC)

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (APC)

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS COMMITTEE

ETHICS COMMITTEE

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SPECIAL GRADUATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

STEERING COMMITTEE

4 MEETINGS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

FALL READING WEEK

CURRICULUM CHANGES

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH

RESEARCH

GENERAL

6 MEMBERSHIP

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This annual report for Concordia University's Senate provides the highlights of activities for the 2020-21 academic year—a year marked by many successes at our university against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Concordia's momentum this year is clear not only from our continued strong rankings, but our enrolment: while many Quebec universities saw their student numbers decline in the COVID context, ours increased. Our necessarily virtual Open Houses turned out to be our largest ever, reaching students from 109 countries.

It was an exceptional year for new initiatives. To take our leading research to the next level by facilitating cross-disciplinary exchange both within and outside Concordia, we launched our Next-Generation Cities Institute, opened our state-of-the-art Applied Science Hub and got Board approval to establish our new School of Health. On the social and environmental justice fronts, we launched our Equity Office, the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism, and our Sustainability Action Plan. While lockdowns and successive COVID-19 waves meant the majority of our course elements were conducted virtually, we successfully introduced a new series of work-integrated learning University Skills courses to meet the growing demand for experiential learning.

These achievements demonstrate the continued cohesion and strength of the Concordia community – faculty, staff and students alike. Clearly, this was an exceptional and difficult academic year. It was extremely disruptive and taxing on everyone—students, faculty, staff and administrators. Nevertheless, our community accomplished remarkable things, as it has done since the outbreak of the pandemic. By way of illustration, we should all be extremely proud that in spring 2021 we had the largest graduating class in Concordia's history.

While some trends and indications of what a post-pandemic future for higher education might look like emerged this year, much uncertainty remains. The Senate's role in helping Concordia navigate these uncharted waters through collegial reflection and discussion is invaluable. I offer my sincere thanks to all the members of Senate who have served this past year and for the year ahead.



Graham Carr
President and Vice-Chancellor

MANDATE

Senate is responsible for the academic governance of the University, including matters related to research, faculties, departments, libraries, programs and courses, academic standards, regulations, policies and procedures, and the granting of degrees, diplomas and certificates (excluding honorary degrees). The functions and powers of Senate are listed in [Section 13](#) of the By-Laws.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The work of Senate is supported by its standing committees which regularly report to Senate and bring forward recommendations as required. A full description of each committee's composition and mandate is included in the [Membership and Functions of Senate Standing Committees](#).

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE (APPC)

Studies and evaluates the implications of all proposals regarding academic development and priorities, supports the academic planning function of the university and makes reports and recommendations to Senate on academic planning and academic priorities.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (APC)

Coordinates and makes recommendations to Senate regarding credit programs and undergraduate academic regulations.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS COMMITTEE

Assesses and reviews nominations and recommends to Senate the awarding of the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Oversees and enforces the application of the *Code of Ethics and Conduct Applicable to Members of Senate and Members of Committees Established by Senate (US-1)*.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Acts as an advisory body to the University Librarian and Senate in connection with library objectives, policies, and budget and the development of its services and collections.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Studies and makes recommendations to Senate concerning the development, administration, guidelines and policies regarding research and the support thereof.

SPECIAL GRADUATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

Solicits and reviews nominations and recommends recipients to Senate for the eight special graduation awards.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Reviews Senate Agendas and ensures that the documentation forwarded to Senate is appropriate and in a form permitting effective debate.

MEETINGS

Eight regular meetings of Senate were held during the 2020-21 academic year:

September 18, 2020	February 19, 2021
October 16, 2020	March 19, 2021
November 13, 2020	April 23, 2021
December 4, 2020	May 21, 2021

All Senate and Senate standing committee meetings were held virtually due to the public health situation.

The highlights of the main topics discussed during those meetings are summarized below.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As has been the case since the spring of 2020, a good part of the Senate meetings was devoted to updates by the President and the senior leadership team regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the work, initiatives and actions undertaken to address the challenges in relation thereto.

FALL READING WEEK

Following presentations and discussions in previous years with respect to adding a fall reading week, Senate approved in March 2021 the implementation of a fall reading week and the resulting adjustments to the length of the fall and winter terms. Starting in fall 2023, the fall term will comprise 12 weeks of classes or instructional activities and a one-week reading break during the week of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

CURRICULUM CHANGES

While Senate approved numerous undergraduate curriculum changes and regulations as well as numerous graduate curriculum changes throughout the year, of special note is the approval of the undergraduate curriculum proposal regarding the new University Skills courses. The new series of work-integrated learning courses was developed in collaboration with Concordia's [FutureBound program](#) of the Student Success Centre and the Future Skills Innovation Network (FUSION), a pan-Canadian initiative to develop innovative approaches to skills development led by Concordia in collaboration with five other universities.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH

After years of research and stakeholder consultation, at its May 2021 meeting, Senate recommended to the Board of Governors that it approve the establishment of the [School of Health](#). Emerging from discussions that began in 2015 as part of the [Double our Research Strategic Direction](#), the [School of Health](#) will serve as a showcase for the diversity of health research at Concordia and will consist of three transversal hubs, reflecting existing research strengths across the University: Community Health Hub, Clinical Research and Prevention Hub, and Biomedical Science and Engineering Research Hub. These hubs are designed to facilitate interdisciplinary research within and across them.

RESEARCH

Concordia Materials Characterization Platform was granted University-recognized status in accordance with the *Policy on Research Units and Infrastructure Platforms* ([VPRGS-8](#)).

GENERAL

The following individuals gave presentations throughout the year, in order to keep Senators apprised of ongoing projects and initiatives:

- Amy Fish and Lisa White presented the highlights of the [Ombuds Office annual report](#) and the [Office of Rights and Responsibilities annual report](#), respectively.
- Nadia Bhuiyan presented the report on *Intership Study at Concordia University*.
- Gaya Arasaratnam delivered a presentation on *Campus Wellness and Support Services*.
- Anne Whitelaw proposed academic accommodations for the fall 2020 for discussion at Senate.
- Lisa Ostiguy and Lisa White updated Senate on the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) working group recommendations and the EDI office.
- William Cheaib, Monica Mulrennan, Jason Ens and Sabrina Lavoie provided an overview of Concordia's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Voluntary University Review (VUR) process.
- Anne Whitelaw provided an update on the alternate grading policy which will be submitted for approval in 2021-22.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Senate for the 2020-21 (as of May 1, 2021) included:

VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Graham Carr, President and Vice-Chancellor

Anne Whitelaw, Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Paula Wood-Adams, Interim Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies

Pascale Sicotte, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

Mourad Debbabi, Interim Dean, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science

Annie Gérin, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

Anne-Marie Croteau, Dean, John Molson School of Business

Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi, Interim Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Guylaine Beaudry, University Librarian

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Shimon Amir

Leslie Barker (PT)

Matthew Barker

Elizabeth Bloodgood

Cathy Bolton

Christopher Brett

Selvadurai Dayanandan

Mary Esteve

Elizabeth Fast

Ariela Freedman

Helena Osana

Virginia Penhune

Gilles Peslherbe

Ronald Stern

**GINA CODY SCHOOL
OF ENGINEERING
AND COMPUTER
SCIENCE**

Ali Akgunduz
Alex De Visscher
Catherine Mulligan
Reza Soleymani
Radu Zmeureanu

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Sally Cooke (PT)
Christopher Moore
Kelly Thompson
Guylaine Vaillancourt

**JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS**

Frank Crooks
Linda Dyer
Medhi Farashahi
Robert Soroka (PT)

**PROFESSIONAL
LIBRARIAN**

Vince Graziano

**UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS**

Adewunmi Ajika
Nicholas Bailey
James Hanna
Fiona Harrison-Roberts
Safwan Hye
Debra Irabor
Hannah Jamet-Lange
Isaiah Joyner
Samantha Leger
Colin Long
Sarah Mazhero
Alexander Stojda

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Md Foysal Ahmed
Sri Divya Doppalapudi
Duraichelvan Raju
Praneetha Reddy

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO

Philippe Beauregard, Chief
Communications Officer
Paul Chesser,
Vice-President, Advancement
Denis Cossette,
Chief Financial Officer
Stéphanie De Celles,
University Registrar
Michael Di Grappa, Vice-
President,
Services and Sustainability
Isabel Dunnigan, Executive
Director, Centre for
Continuing Education
Nadia Hardy, Interim
Deputy Provost
Frederica Jacobs,
Secretary-General

**ADMINISTRATIVE
AND SUPPORT STAFF
REPRESENTATIVE**

Candace Jacobs
Émilie Martel

**GCS PART-TIME FACULTY
MEMBER**

Tom Hughes

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Danielle Tessier

