

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE**

Friday, January 21, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.
via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting Members: Graham Carr (Chair), Ciprian Alecsandru, Shimon Amir, Leslie Barker, Guylaine Beaudry, Joanna Berzowska, Elizabeth Bloodgood, Catherine Bolton,Carolynn Boulanger, Lovina Angela Brown, Boutaina Chafi, Queenie Hui Jing Chen, Demetre Christopoulos, Sally Cooke, Anne-Marie Croteau, Alexandra Dawson, Selvadurai Dayanandan, Alex De Visscher, Mourad Debbabi, Larry Deck, Effrosyni Diamantoudi, Riya Dutta, Linda Dyer, Mary Esteve, Mehdi Farashahi, Ariela Freedman, Annie Gérin, Marina Ghali, Nicolka Gorel, Abdelwahab Hamou-Lhadj, Hannah Jamet-Lange, Moshe Lander, Eduardo Malorni, Peter Morden, Duraichelvan Raju, Lourdu Reddy Allam, Rosemary Reilly, Pascale Sicotte, Reza Soleymani, Robert Soroka, Craig Townsend, Guylaine Vaillancourt, Jean-Philippe Warren, Deeva Wazir, Anne Whitelaw, Shaina Willison, Paula Wood-Adams, Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Paul Chesser, Denis Cossette, Stéphanie de Celles, Michael Di Grappa, Isabel Dunnigan, Nadia Hardy, Tom Hughes, Candace Jacobs, Frederica Jacobs, Émilie Martel

Also attending: Sandra Gabriele, Lisa Ostiguy, Karan Singh

ABSENT

Voting members: Mitch Mitchell, Prady Cassandra Ngouma Wa, Satinder Pal Singh

1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the first Senate of 2022.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2022-1-1 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of December 10, 2021 Minutes

R-2022-1-2 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 10, 2021, be adopted.

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

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

CONSENT

3. Academic Programs Committee – Report and recommendations (Document US-2022-1-D1)

R-2022-1-3 That the Academic Programs Committee - Report and recommendations (Document US-2022-1-D1) be approved.

REGULAR

4. Campus Update

Before the campus update, the President shared some recent news with Senate:

- Dr. Carr started with sharing the shocking news of the death of Dr. Powlowski, Associate Vice-President of Research, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, in December. He noted the terrible loss this was for the community. Dr. Carr stated that Dr. Powlowski was a key member of Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, previously an associate dean in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, outstanding researcher in genomics, great teacher and supervisor, fantastic citizen of the community who had major impact on the design and implementation of several major building and research infrastructure projects at the University.
- Dr. Carr also shared the news of the very premature death of S. Gordon, Graduate Assistant in Applied Human Sciences, and a varsity athlete in the 1990s, who moved up the organization over the years of service to the University. Another devastating loss to the community, Dr. Carr noted.
- Given the closure of arts venues, Dr. Carr informed Senate of the decision to suspend convocation ceremonies planned for February 16 and 17. He noted that great attendance had been registered for the two events, but they will have to be re-scheduled at the earliest opportunity.

- Dr. Carr went on to share some good news with Senate, including the John Molson School of Business students placing 1st overall at this year's *Jeux du Commerce*, and 1st in the Academic Cup. He indicated that the competition, which is the largest of its kind in Eastern Canada, featured 1,100 students from 14 universities. He also informed Senators that five of six teams from John Molson earned podiums at the Inter-Collegiate Business Competition (ICBC), which is one of the longest-running undergraduate case competitions in the world.
- Dr. Carr informed Senate that Space Concordia's Rocketry division secured its most significant financial partnership to date, receiving \$120,000 from Stardust Alliance to help support mentoring and opportunities for young people in Indigenous and rural communities to be exposed to STEM fields. He added that the funds will also help develop a launch facility in Northern Ontario.
- Dr. Carr shared that N. Myre, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Arts Practice, won this year's *Prix Louis-Comtois*, and one of the University's graduates, B. Bultz was appointed to the Order of Canada. He mentioned that B. Bultz is a professor at the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine and is recognized for his work on the psychosocial effects of cancer.
- Dr. Carr informed Senate of the following donations:
 - G. Lengvari donated \$1 million to support men's and women's basketball program.
 - The Ajram Family Foundation, through former graduates G. Ajram and G. M. Dabrowski-Ajram, have made a \$1 million gift to support Beat the Odds and the Student Emergency Food Fund.
 - Molson Coors has committed \$125,000 over the next five years to the University in support of bursaries for Black students.
- Dr. Carr shared with Senate that in light of the transgender presentations and discussions at Senate in December, beginning next Tuesday, the University will be removing information pertaining to gender from student records, a change which will be material both for students and users of the SIS. The *ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur* still requires that the University collect data on sex at birth from students, but there is also a request from university registrars to the *ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur* that this obligation be revisited. He thanked S. de Celles and the team at the Office of the Registrar for their work to make this possible.

The President continued with the campus update and shared the following information regarding the return-to-campus for the winter semester:

- Dr. Carr informed Senate that the situation with the continued pandemic was immensely stressful and bitterly frustrating, particularly because the University had been optimistic in the late fall and early December for a full return to in-person activities in the new year. Dr. Carr acknowledged that everyone was trying to cope in different ways with the uncertainty.

- He acknowledged that this difficult situation had created considerable anxiety and that there are many strongly held and different points of views about the situation; but emphasized to Senators that it is important that the Concordia community maintain a respectful tone.
- He noted the University's commitment to balance its competing views and needs, but above all to make sure it fulfils its social mission, which is to provide access to education and research, while being mindful of the health guidelines.
- Dr. Carr explained that Concordia was the first University in Québec that had decided to start online teaching, even before January. Given the government announcements, he noted that modifications were made, and remote teaching was scheduled to continue until February 3. He pointed out that the government of Québec had been very clear and consistent that education is an essential service, and that in-person student experience was to be prioritized. He reminded Senate that the government had earlier wanted in-person teaching to start by January 17, and no later than January 31. He noted that some universities began in-person teaching on January 17 or will start on January 24 and that Concordia's approach with Université de Montréal and UQAM was to delay as much as it was allowed by the government. Dr. Carr reported that Universities in Ontario have also announced they will be resuming between January 31 and February 7.
- He explained why Concordia chose the February 3 start date for the resumption of in-person teaching, namely:
 - To provide the community for a month of predictability, so that faculty members could deliver courses and students would be able to continue to learn in an online environment.
 - To allow the University to view how other university experiences have been.
 - To allow international students to arrive by January 19, in accordance with government requirements, and give them a buffer period to isolate and get vaccinated should that be required for them.
 - To coincide the beginning of in-person courses with the beginning of an academic week, so on a Thursday.
- Dr. Carr informed Senate that the University continues to monitor the situation and will make the necessary adjustments as needed going forward.
- He clarified that the campuses are open. He indicated that research was on-going, people have access to their offices and all essential services are functioning on campus. He was happy to note that just yesterday, 2000 students used the Vanier and Webster Libraries.
- Regarding health and safety measures, Dr. Carr underlined that the University's approach was to follow the advice and protocols of the public health authorities, which have proved to be quite effective. He added that one advantage of being declared an essential service by government was that all employees qualified for

access to the vaccine booster on a priority basis. He encouraged Senators to get their booster shot.

- The President informed Senate of the health and safety measures that applied on campus:
 - The wearing procedural masks will continue to be obligatory while on campus. In classrooms people will be required to wear masks at all times.
 - The University will continue to distribute procedural masks.
 - N95 masks may be recommended in specific contexts on campus, such as workers in health services, but not for the education sector. Individuals who want to wear N95 masks are free to do so, however the University will only be distributing procedural masks.
- Dr. Carr noted that the University has already undertaken a number of measures to ensure proper ventilation in buildings where most of teaching takes place.
- With regards to student accommodations, Dr. Carr told Senate that the late DISC option was still available to students until April, and that a short-term absence policy had been put into place, which allows for absence without having to provide medical documentation.
- Dr. Carr also informed Senate that the University strongly recommended that faculty members make recorded lectures available to their students when possible. He commended the admirable work that was being done by the Centre for Teaching and Learning in designing a list of tools for faculty members to help them deliver courses in a student-centered fashion.
- Dr. Carr concluded his remarks reassuring Senate that the University would continue to share with the community the decisions that were being taken and explain why they were being taken.

5. Question period

Following the campus update, the President invited Senators who wanted to express their points of view and pose questions to do so. Many Senators shared their perspectives and concerns. They asked questions in relation to the return-to-campus and resources available to the University community. Dr. Carr, Dr. Whitelaw, M. Di Grappa, Dr. Gabriele and Dr. Ostiguy responded to the questions and shared resources with Senators.

6. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the Open Session.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Shelina Houssenaly

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Secretary of Senate