

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

Friday, March 17, 2023, at 2 p.m.
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting Members: Graham Carr (Chair), Nagendra Sri Anurag Appala, Leslie Barker, Matthew Barker (attended remotely), Sabine Bergler, Dominique Bérubé, Beverley Best (attended remotely), Catherine Bolton, Adam Bouguila, Anne-Marie Croteau, Fabienne Cyrius (attended remotely), Alexandra Dawson (attended remotely), Selvadurai Dayanandan, Mourad Debbabi, Larry Deck, Effrosyni Diamantoudi, William Dickson, Mary Esteve (attended remotely), Mehdi Farashahi (attended remotely), Annie Gérin, Marina Ghali, Fawaz Halloum, Steve Henle (attended remotely), Asli Isaaq, Jordan Jerome-Pitre, Rebecca Kaninda, Stéphanie Tsi-Ying Lamothe, Michael Lecchino (attended remotely), Christopher Moore, Peter Morden (attended remotely), Catherine Mulligan, Xavier Ottenwaelder (attended remotely), Ian Rakita, Pat Riva, Ahmadou Sakho, Pascale Sicotte, Craig Townsend, Guylaine Vaillancourt (attended remotely), Deeva Wazir, Anne Whitelaw, Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Paul Chesser, Stéphanie de Celles (attended remotely), Michael Di Grappa, Nadia Hardy, Tom Hughes, Emilie Martel (attended remotely), Stefana Nita (attended remotely), Melodie Sullivan (attended remotely on behalf of Frederica Jacobs)

Also attending: Sandra Gabrielle, Lisa Ostiguy

ABSENT

Voting members: Sally Cooke, Samreet Kaur, Moshe Lander, Sofia Lipari-Couture, David Morris, Fuzhan Nasiri, Mireille Paquet, Thenmozhie Rajan, Nachiketh R. Ravindra, Sofiane Tahar, Kelly Thompson

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette, Isabel Dunnigan, Frederica Jacobs

1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2023-2-1 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of February 17, 2023 Minutes

R-2023-2-2 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of February 17, 2023, 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.

3. President's Remarks

The President's remarks are summarized as follows:

- Dr. Carr started by saying that he hoped that everyone had enjoyed reading week and that the downtime had been productive. He marked just a month before classes end for the academic year. He also noted that this has been a historical semester, as the University will transition to a 12-week summer, fall and winter semester, with a new fall reading week in 2023-24.
- He highlighted the success of Open House in February and thanked all the volunteers who helped make it a big success.
- He reminded Senators that all Quebec universities have been experiencing a decline in student numbers. In Concordia's case, the decline was 2.1% as compared to last year. This was directly attributable to the severe drop of 7.4% in students from Quebec, which has been caused by the shrinking demographics of the 18-24 age cohort in the province and slower times for completion in CEGEPs. He noted that, while the undergraduate applications had increased over the last year, the course-based Master's programs had seen a severe drop.
- The main cause of this drop has been a reduced number of students from India, which is the largest source of international students across Canada. He noted that the problem has been exacerbated by long delays in processing visa applications by IRCC, which has left quite a negative impression on potential applications. The impact on enrolment numbers is real and a further decline in student population is expected.
- He reiterated the importance of events like Open House and underlined the need to continue to work towards streamlining the admissions process, accelerating

admissions decisions and providing as much personalized support as possible, particularly at the graduate level and in restricted undergraduate programs.

- He acknowledged the work done by program directors, program assistants, advisors and research supervisors and thanked them for all their efforts. He requested Senators to communicate with the relevant personnel if they are aware of any bottlenecks in the admissions process so that these problems can be addressed.
- On a positive note, eConcordia offered a record number of 64 online courses this winter semester, which attracted 18,000 students. This brought the total enrollment in online for credit courses for 2022-23 to nearly 42,000.
- He informed Senate that the *Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur* has approved the 45-credit MFA program in Cinematic Arts and that the program would be welcoming its first cohort of 10 students in the fall.
- He also informed Senate of the various partnerships that the University entered into over the past few weeks: In aerospace with the University of Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), in cinema with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports of Vietnam, in power engineering with the Electric Power University of Vietnam (Hanoi), and in an agreement with Université d'Artois in northern France, this latter to foster collaborations between the respective French and Québec ecosystems in electrification and green energy transition.
- He congratulated Susan Edey, who was recently named Senior Director of Community Engagement and Social Impact at Concordia. Susan has over a decade of experience at Concordia in various community engagement roles and it's great to see her in this leadership position.
- He noted that a big federal funding announcement was going to be made, which is currently under embargo. He was also happy to share the news that the first Dean, School of Health will be appointed after the conclusion of a lengthy international search.. This concluded the process, which was launched in May 2021 when the Board of Governors approved the establishment of the new School of Health.
- He took the opportunity to wish good luck to all who are currently waiting for funding decisions, including students and prospective students awaiting scholarship and other fellowship decisions.
- He again reminded Senate of the record year in research funding, which had topped \$75M for this year. This provided an exciting context as the new Strategic Research Plan was being finalized, which will also be shared for information of Senate at the meeting today.

4. Academic update (Document US-2023-2-D1)

Dr. Whitelaw didn't have anything to add to the written report.

CONSENT

5. Tribunal Pool/Committee Nominations (Document US-2023-2-D2)

R-2023-2-3 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Tribunal Pool and Committee appointments be approved.

6. Academic Programs Committee Report (Document US-2023-2-D3)

7. Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Report (Document US-2023-2-D4)

These reports were for information purposes.

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8. Strategic Research Plan (Document US-2023-2-D5)

D. Bérubé gave the overall context of the requirements of a Strategic Research Plan, which is a federal research funding agencies' requirement, implemented in 2020. This requirement particularly applies for funding of all Canada Research Chair and Canada Foundation for Innovation funding and the Plan needs to be updated every 5 years. D. Bérubé spoke of the consultative process, which began in January 2023, following the approval of the draft by the Senate Research Committee in December. The consultation was led in collaboration with the Faculties and also included the institutional research units, the libraries and the Council of Graduate studies. The Plan aims to update the information about the institution's research strengths and priorities. It is composed of two sections, the objectives that are transversal principles that apply to all research activities and the themes that identify strategic sectors of activities. It is limited to ten-page document that can be submitted to the federal agencies. To build the draft Plan for consultation, the Office of the Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies used a sample of funded research across all four faculties to develop cross-cutting interdisciplinary themes that emerged as important research strengths.

Since the consultation process concluded on March 9th, the revised plan is being finalized and will be brought to the Senate Research Committee for final discussion and recommendation, so that it could be brought back to Senate for approval.

To a question if Senators would be able to provide further feedback to the final version, the Chair explained that the Senate Research Committee was the sub-committee of Senate which had been delegated authority to review and recommend the plan, and that the forum of the sub-committee was where the substantive feedback would be provided. The Chair confirmed that when the final version is brought before Senate for approval, a discussion will also be had.

9. Question period

One of the Senators asked where they could send questions and suggestions if there were concerns with admissions process and other recruitment issues. Dr. Carr noted that it depended on the nature of the concern: for graduate admissions it would be the Dean of Graduate Studies or respective Faculties, and all undergrad matters could be brought to the respective Faculties and the Provost's attention. He added that the University has limited flexibility in terms of immigration and visa issues, which the University does not control.

10. Other business

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

Dr. Carr invited everyone to attend the Concordia Stingers Women's Ice Hockey game at Université de Montréal this evening, as this marks the beginning of the team's defense of its championship title.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of Senate