

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

Held on Friday, October 13, 2017,
following the meeting of the Closed Session
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: Alan Shepard (*Chair*); Mohamed Allalou; Paul Allen; Reena Atanasiadis; Guylaine Beaudry; Pascale Biron; Patrice Blais; Rory Blaisdell; Steven Brown; Philippe Caignon; Ana Cappelluto (*Acting on behalf of Rebecca Duclos*); Saul Carliner; Graham Carr; Mikaela Clark-Gardner; Frank Crooks; Ricardo Dal Farra; Christine DeWolf; Jill Didur; Marcie Frank; Vince Graziano; Christophe Guy; George Kanaan (*Acting on behalf of Anne-Marie Croteau*); Tevfik Karatop; Chiranjeevi Koduri; David Morris; Mahesh Natarajan; Lorraine Oades; Virginia Penhune; Harald Proppe; Martin Pugh; Omar Riaz; André Roy; Jonathan Roy; Francesca Scala; Yousef Shayan; Ali Sherra; Thufile Sirajudeen; Robert Soroka; Shaumia Suntharalingam; Julia Sutera Sardo; Leyla Sutherland; Sofière Tahar; Christopher Trueman; Paula Wood-Adams; Sharon Yonan Renold

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beauregard; Roger Côté; Bram Freedman; Lisa Ostiguy; Melodie Sullivan (*Acting on behalf of Frederica Jacobs*); Daniel Therrien

ABSENT

Voting members: Amir Asif; Charles Draimin; Brigitte Jaumard; John Potvin; Daniel Salée; Marc Steinberg; Jean-Philippe Warren

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette; Isabel Dunnigan; Emmet Henchey

1. **Call to order**

The President called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

R-2017-6-5 *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 September 15, 2017

Ms. Sutera Sardo asked that it be noted in the Minutes that she posed the question under item 10 (Question period).

R-2017-6-7 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of September 15, 2017 be approved as amended.*

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

Prof. Shepard shared the results of the [Maclean's 2018 University rankings](#), noting that Concordia has held 10th place in the comprehensive university category for the third consecutive year while making gains in important areas such as student satisfaction, research, innovation, and reputation.

The President's remarks also included the following information:

- Fall enrolments are strong.
- The 2017 Loyola Medal was recently awarded to James Orbinski.
- The *Di-Octo* kinetic sculpture, created by Anthony Howe and donated by Chancellor Jonathan Wener and his wife Susan, was unveiled at the corner of MacKay and de Maisonneuve on September 28.
- The Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance and its partner associations received the *UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize* for their work in creating and implementing the [Learning Toolkit](#).
- Over 1,200 Concordia faculty, staff, students and alumni attended the first ever *Concordia Day @ the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts* on September 14.
- Hydro-Québec has funded three research chairs totaling \$3.9 million.
- The announcement of the public phase of the comprehensive campaign will be done on November 1.

He concluded his remarks by encouraging Senators to attend the Fall Convocation ceremonies which will be held on November 20.

4. Academic update (Document US-2017-6-D3)

There were no questions in relation to this report.

5. Report of Standing Committees
- 5.1 Academic Planning and Priorities (Document US-2017-6-D4)
- 5.2 Finance (Document US-2017-6-D5)

There were no questions in relation to these reports.

CONSENT

6. Committee appointments (Document US-2017-6-D6)

R-2017-6-8 *That the committee appointments, outlined in Document US-2017-6-D7, be approved.*

7. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2017-6-D7)

- 7.1 Graduate curriculum changes – Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
 - 7.1.1 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Document US-2017-6-D9)
 - 7.1.2 Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (Document US-2017-6-D10)

R-2017-6-9 *That the graduate curriculum changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, outlined in Documents US-2017-6-D9 and D10, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-6-D7.*

REGULAR

8. Academic Programs Committee: Report and recommendations (Document US-2017-6-D7)
- 8.1 New undergraduate program – Faculty of Arts and Science – Department of Physics – Minor in Biophysics (Document US-2017-6-D8)

Dean Roy introduced the Chair of the Department of Physics, Alexandre Champagne, who summarized the highlights of this new Minor, which is intended for non-physics BSc students and offers a more mathematical and quantitative approach to complement their life sciences education.

R-2017-6-10 *That the new undergraduate program in the Faculty of Arts and Science, outlined in Document US-2017-6-D8, be approved, as recommended by the Academic Programs Committee in Document US-2017-6-D7.*

9. Annual report of the academic hearing panel (Document US-2017-6-D11)

Me Sullivan presented the highlights of the report, which is provided annually for information purposes in accordance with Article 94 of the [Academic Code of Conduct](#), and responded to questions of clarification. A suggestion was made that the report could track charges upheld in relation to online courses.

10. Overview of the results of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and academic advising initiatives

Dr. Ostiguy prefaced her presentation by apprising Senate that the NSSE data has become available a few weeks ago. The Office of Institutional Planning will be working on a breakdown of the results by Faculty and will also make them available to departments. The Executive Director, Institutional Planning and Analysis, Jonathan Levinson, and Dr. Ostiguy will be discussing the results in more detail at Faculty Councils and have already been invited to do so with other groups, such as the Library.

During the course her presentation, Dr. Ostiguy provided an overview of some of the results of NSSE, who participates as well as some results and some actions flowing from what we have learned from NSSE.

She explained that NSSE is comprised of about 100 questions in five categories: how students spend their time inside and outside the classroom; institutional actions and requirements; student perceptions about the quality of their own experiences; self-reported gains in skills that students feel they have developed as a result of attending university; and background and demographic information.

For 2017, Concordia's response rate was 24%, which is lower than other universities. Dr. Ostiguy noted that this could be attributable to the fact that our students surveyed a lot and that many of them have other responsibilities, such as work.

The University receives the results for each question with three benchmarks: Concordia and other Canadian comprehensive universities; Quebec and Canada; and its own statistics.

Overall, Concordia is on par with its comparator groups for most questions. Results show that the diversity of the Concordia's population is a strength. Students also reported that instructors provide prompt and detailed feedback on exams and assignments, and students come to class prepared.

Opportunities for improvement include offering more collaborative learning activities, and participation in internships, co-op, field experiences, student teaching or clinical placements as well co-curricular activities and senior experiences such as capstone projects.

In response to the question regarding their evaluation of their entire educational experience at Concordia, 80% of students rated their experience as good and excellent, slightly higher than other Canadian comprehensive universities.

Since the 2013 survey, institutions have been able to access additional modules, which are short sets of questions on designated topics such as academic advising, civic engagement, development of transferable skills, experiences with diverse perspectives, learning with

technology, and experiences with writing. In 2017, Concordia selected the academic advising model, along with nine other Canadian universities.

Results for first year students were generally weaker than final year, which implies that a student's experience with advising improves during the course of their studies. Those results were about the same or slightly lower than 2014.

To address this situation, Dr. Ostiguy apprised Senators of a number of initiatives which are already under way to improve student support, such as the establishment of an Advising and Retention Working Group, the launch of a Navigator Program that assigns volunteers to students and provides one-on-one support, information sessions for academic advisors, the addition of advising features on the Student Information System and the creation of an academic advising toolkit for academic advisors.

11. Strategic directions update

The Provost's presentation was divided into two parts, the first focusing on a review of the first moves accomplished during 2016/2017 following the implementation of the strategic directions, the second looking ahead as to how the strategic directions can contribute to the attainment of the University's vision and ultimate objective of becoming a next-generation university.

Dr. Carr recalled the nine strategic directions and, while the list of accomplishments is very impressive, he highlighted only a few of them in relation to each of the strategic directions. He noted that the key takeaways from last year are the remarkable level of engagement and that we have much to be proud of while identifying a need for alignment around shared objectives.

Dr. Carr made the point that the nine directions are leading to one big goal and that the challenge is to define what is a next-generation university in order to become a next-generation university, noting that getting this right will constitute an incredible advantage in positioning Concordia as a standout among its peers.

Following the many successful first moves, the academic leadership team determined which principles will guide its decision-making and prioritization going forward, to give shape to a narrative about that one big goal of becoming a next-generation university. This led into identifying the five following guiding principles:

- Position globally
- Partner meaningfully
- Integrate for impact
- Deliver on innovation
- Augment the student experience

He apprised Senate of five transformational projects that the academic leadership team is prioritizing which cut across the University as a whole and are of a scale to be truly transformative. At Dr. Carr's invitation, Dr. Roy commented on *Montréal 2050*, Dr. Guy

on the *Health Institute*, Dr. Beaudry on the *Digital Strategy*, Dr. Wood-Adams and Mr. Côté on *Summer@Concordia*, and Drs. Ostiguy and Gabriele on the *Next-Generation Learning*.

Dr. Carr concluded his representation by emphasizing the importance of a sustained commitment to indigenous directions, which is in a category of its own, as well as the University's commitment and responsibility to address the recommendations stemming from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

12. Question period

Responding to a query from Mr. Roy, Dean Roy replied that curriculum changes are being brought to the existing Minor in German, and it is expected that admissions will be reinstated as of the Fall.

Following questions from Ms. Sutherland regarding changes to the policy regarding Tribunal Hearing Chairs, Ms. Sullivan specified that there was no policy change. She reiterated that going forward the letter forwarded to students informing them of the names of the panel members will also include the name of the Chair.

Ms. Clark-Gardner asked if the CSU could suggest names of lawyers from non-profit organizations to be appointed to serve as Tribunal Hearing Chairs. Ms. Sullivan answered yes.

13. Other business

There was no other business to bring before Senate.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of Senate