

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
AND OF THE CORPORATION

Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 4 p.m.
Room GM 410 (Board of Governors meeting room) SGW Campus

PRESENT

Governors: Helen Antoniou (Chair), Francis Baillet (attended remotely), Kenneth Brooks (attended remotely), Graham Carr (President and Vice-Chancellor), Jarrett Carty, Gary N. Chateram (attended remotely), Gina P. Cody (attended remotely), Daniel Cross, Selvadurai Dayanandan, Pat Di Lillo, Kim Fuller, Fawaz Halloum, Claude Joli-Cœur (Vice-Chair), Claudine Mangen (attended remotely), Frederica Martin (Vice-Chair), Duraichelvan Raju, Robert Soroka, Ted Stathopoulos, Cathy Wong (attended remotely)

Also attending: Philippe Beauregard, Dominique Bérubé, William Cheaib, Paul Chesser, Denis Cossette, Michael Di Grappa (attended remotely), Nadia Hardy, Frederica Jacobs, Lisa Ostiguy, Anne Whitelaw

ABSENT

Governors: Françoise Bertrand, Adriana Embiricos, Rana Ghorayeb, Caroline Jamet, Paul John Murdoch, Philippe Pourreaux

Alternate Governor: Nassim Boutalbi

Non-voting observer: Jonathan Wener

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R-2023-1-1 That the Agenda be approved, including the items on the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT

2. Approval of December 15, 2022 Minutes

R-2023-1-2 *That the Minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2022, be approved.*

3. Governance and Ethics Committee recommendation: revision to the Concordia University By-Laws (Document BG-2023-1-D1)

R-2023-1-3 *That, upon recommendation of the Governance and Ethics Committee, the revisions to the By-Laws of Concordia University be approved.*

4. Audit Committee recommendations :

4.1 *Système d'information financière des universités (SIFU) report for year ended April 30, 2022* (Document BG-2023-1-D2)

R-2023-1-4 *That, upon recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the Système d'information financière des universités (SIFU) report for year ended April 30, 2022.*

4.2 Approval of revisions to the *Policy on Enterprise Risk Management (BD-14)* (Document BG-2023-1-D3)

R-2023-1-5 *That, upon recommendation of the Audit Committee, the revisions to the Policy on Enterprise Risk Management (BD-14) be approved.*

5. Finance Committee recommendations:

5.1 Delegation under the Act respecting contracting by public bodies (S.Q. 2006, c-29) and related regulations for qualified IT projects (Document BG-2023-1-D4)

R-2023-1-6 *That, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the delegation under An Act respecting contracting by public bodies (S.Q. 2006, c-29) and related regulations for qualified IT projects and the ratification of all acts outlined in Document BG-2023-1-D4A be approved.*

5.2 Delegation for computer provisioning contracts (Document BG-2023-1-D5)

R-2023-1-7 *That, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve that Concordia University be authorized:*

1. *to join the "Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales" (CAG) for the purchase of its standard personal computers for a five-year contract (an initial two-year contract beginning on September 1, 2023, plus three one-year options) for a total contract commitment of \$10,800,000.00, including taxes; and*

2. to spend an additional amount of \$1,620,000.00, including taxes, if required, to cover the unplanned purchases or potential growth as part of the same contract;

the whole for a total maximum contract commitment of \$12,420,000.00, including taxes, in accordance with the presentation entitled "New provisioning strategy for standard personal computers" attached hereto, as well as the University's policies and applicable government legislation and regulations.

6. Approval for the use of Concordia's name (Document BG-2023-1-D6)

R-2023-1-8 *That, subject to the conditions set out in the Policy on the Use of Concordia University's Name, Logo and Related Insignia, and the Governance of its Visual Character and Digital Presence (SG-4) and its related Procedures, the following requests to use the Concordia name be approved:*

- *Concordia Naginata Club*
- *Concordia Relay for Life*
- *John Molson Data Analytics Club*
- *Nyantende Foundation – Concordia Chapter*

REGULAR

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

There was no other business to bring before the meeting that was not included on the Agenda.

8. President's report (Document BG-2023-1-D7)

As complementary information to his written report, G. Carr's remarks are summarized as follows:

- G. Carr began by acknowledging that the last 2 weeks have been extremely difficult for members of Concordia's Turkish and Syrian communities because of the devastating earthquakes that ravaged southern Turkey and northern Syria, which, per reports from the United Nations, have killed more than 40,000 people and displaced millions of others. He noted that Concordia currently has 396 Syrian students and 99 Turkish students. The Syrian students are mainly permanent residents and Canadian citizens, while the Turkish students are in Canada on international visas.
- He informed the Board that, following news of the earthquakes, the International Students Office (ISO) reached out directly to every Turkish and Syrian student to check on them and make them aware of the supports available to them. The ISO also made arrangements with major telephone service providers to facilitate free calls to their home countries (in areas where phone service was still functioning).

- There are also many Iraqi and Iranian students who have been admitted to Concordia but are temporary residents in Turkey pending visa decisions, and the ISO has also reached out to them. He confirmed that none of those students and no students or faculty on exchange or doing research in the affected areas had been injured or worse because of the earthquakes. The University was continuing to post and update information on the Student Hub and have also sent a message to faculty deans for distribution to departments asking that academic accommodations be provided to students who have been severely affected by the events.
- He further noted that it is more difficult for the University to identify and therefore reach out to faculty and staff of Syrian and Turkish origin, as the University doesn't have that information, but information has been posted on the Employee Hub about assistance services that are available.
- There is also information available in an article on the University's home page which provides a link to the Red Cross relief effort for those who would like to make a donation; the Concordia Student Union has also been collecting donations that are destined for Turkish and Syrian organizations. The University is continuing to monitor events as they unfold and is responding directly to individuals who have questions or remain uncertain about how to get support.
- G. Carr then noted that, as part of Black History Month, several Concordians were highlighted last week by the CBC as Black Changemakers. The list included: Tenicha Gittens (coach of the Stingers women's basketball team), Lillian Jackson (served Concordia for 25 years as the administrative director of Concordia's Science College, where Lillian was also confidante to generations of graduates), Concordia student Vanessa Manroop (a committed volunteer), alumni Alix Adrien (who is an educator), Moses Gashirabake (runs a law firm), Tiffany Callender (supporter of black entrepreneurs), Nicole Antoine (the creator of the BLAXPO career fair), Kathy Roach (educator), and Lisa Ndejuru (a former Public Scholar).
- He informed the Board that on February 6th, there was an unveiling of a temporary plaque (a model of what will be installed in the spring) in the Atrium of the Hall Building commemorating the student protest against anti-Black racism that took place in the Hall Building in 1969. A bilingual interactive website was also launched and will be populated with additional materials in the future. At this launch, A. Whitelaw announced that, in partnership with the Student Success Center, Concordia will be creating a Black Student Centre and that work had begun on designing a minor in Black and Africa Diaspora Studies in the Canadian context. He concluded that these initiatives are all actions stemming from the report of the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism.
- Last Saturday, at a ceremony at the Loyola Refectory following the men's and women's basketball games, Concordia inducted Jackson Winters into its Sports Hall of Fame. A star athlete at University of Portland in Oregon and with the Harlem Globetrotters, J. Winters broke color barriers in the US but also in Canada, where he became the first Black coach of a varsity athletic team when he coached men's basketball at Loyola for

three seasons starting in 1962, including a championship season in the Ottawa-St Lawrence Athletic Conference. J. Winters was much beloved and revered by his players. He died recently in his early 90s after a very successful financial career that started in Montreal but took him back to the United States. His daughter, Lauren Winters, who spent her early childhood in Montréal and is now a lawyer in Oregon, returned to Montréal to accept the honor on her father's behalf. G. Carr extended thanks to George Lengvari and Harry Has, two graduates who played for J. Winters, for also participating in the ceremony.

- He informed the Board that three Concordia ice hockey players won gold at the 31st winter edition of the FISU World University Games in Lake Placid, New York. Also, Marion Thénault, an aerospace engineering student, won silver in the World Cup Aerial Skiing at Vail, Colorado in the first week of February. He commended M. Thénault for combining success as one of the world's elite athletes with academic progress in one of the University's most demanding undergraduate programs.
- He made note of the two new appointees to the Order of Canada who have close links to Concordia, namely Gerald Lozinski (graduate and patron of the arts, and a long-time colleague) and Don Taddeo (who taught communications at Concordia, and was dean of the engineering faculty and co-chair of the first capital campaign in the 1990s).
- He was pleased to report that the University had recorded a great year of research funding with more than \$75M in research income in the 2021 fiscal year. This was the first time in the University's history that the \$70M threshold had been exceeded, and this increase represented a leap of more than 25% over the previous year. Only one other university among top 25 institutions, the University of Saskatchewan, had a higher percentage gain. He noted that this growth largely occurred during the pandemic and was a testimonial to the point that universities continued to advance their mission even under the duress that everyone experienced during the pandemic.
- That morning, an event in the John Molson Building was held to honour recipients of the Presidents' Media Outreach awards. These awards are given to faculty and graduate students whose vulgarisation of their research has helped the public understand some of the grand challenges of our time, or whose research has been hailed externally as a breakthrough. One of the awards was given to one of the Governors, Claudine Mangen, for a series of articles in *The Conversation*, an online magazine of university research that is picked up by media outlets globally. C. Mangen's work focuses on the uneven gendered impact of the pandemic with respect to work and the balancing of work and domestic responsibilities.
- Another award was given to Muthu Packirisamy, a member of faculty in Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, whose development of a breakthrough nano technology in optical-bio microsystems was identified as a top-10 science discovery of the year by *Science QC*. One of M. Packirasamy's graduate students who worked on the discovery is also a Governor, Duraichelvan Raju. G. Carr also thanked P. Beauregard's team at UCS, who work with faculty members to mentor them on how to effectively communicate about their research in various public domains.

- He shared with the Governors that Gina Cody was the keynote speaker at Université de Sherbrooke earlier this week. The university had awarded her an honorary doctorate last fall and she was invited back to speak about the importance of advancing equity and diversity in engineering to optimize performance and outcomes. Université de Sherbrooke has since published a fantastic summary of the talk and subsequent interview with G. Cody on its website.
- He congratulated the Office of Advancement and the John Molson School of Business for inviting Guy Cormier, President and CEO of Groupe Desjardins, to speak at Concordia this week. G. Cormier was bestowed an honorary doctorate last spring. At the event, G. Cormier spoke very candidly about his incredible personal and professional journey from being a graduate with no job prospects (a graduate of HEC, Montréal), to a teller at a Desjardins branch, and eventually to the C-suite. It was an inspiring talk that also touched on his philosophy of leadership, on the importance of mentorship, and on his career progression at Desjardins, which he attributed partly to the mentorship he had received at different stages from 5 women. He shared valuable insights on how talented young graduates and employees can prepare themselves to seize opportunities for advancement in a changing world. Board member Philippe Pourreaux was also in attendance, and the audience was mostly made up of students and alumni, with some faculty and staff. G. Cormier's presentation was very well-received - he was approached by many students with questions afterward and was incredibly generous with his time. The success of the event really affirmed the value of the relationship that the University has established with him by way of the honorary doctorate.
- G. Carr shared more news on student accomplishments, informing the Board that the delegation from the John Molson School of Business had placed third overall at this year's *Jeux du Commerce*. The Seventh edition of ConUHacks was held on January 21st and 22nd, with record attendance of some 900 attendees, mostly students, who came from across North America, to participate in the event. An outstanding list of sponsors from the private and public sector had issued the challenges that the hackers sought to crack.
- The winter open house is scheduled for the weekend ahead. The pre-registration numbers are: 4550 students already registered as of the beginning of this week, including nearly 1700 from Quebec, more than 350 from rest of Canada, more than 100 from the United States, and some 2400 who will join targeted virtual information sessions, with the largest group of prospective international students in African countries this time. The students attending in person will be accompanied by more than 2000 guests, mainly parents and siblings.
- He concluded by highlighting a gift from former Board member, Miriam Roland, who provided \$1M to support inter-institutional collaboration on sustainability research. This gift will allow faculty and students from the Next-Generation Cities Institute to exchange and work together with colleagues at the School for Sustainability and Climate Change at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev. This was another example of

M. Roland's generosity in supporting a key strategic focus of the University's research and a partnership with another university that Times Higher Education recognizes as one of the world's great young universities.

9. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of the Board of Governors