

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 4 p.m.
via Zoom Video Conferencing

PRESENT

Governors: Helen Antoniou, *Chair*, Françoise Bertrand, Jeff Bicher, Antoinette Bozac, Ken Brooks, William Bukowski, Graham Carr, *President and Vice-Chancellor*, Gina P. Cody, Selvadurai Dayanandan, Pat Di Lillo, Adriana Embiricos, Rana Ghorayeb, Caroline Jamet, Claude Joli-Coeur, *Vice-Chair*, Isaiah Joyner, Claudine Mangen, Frédérica Martin, *Vice-Chair*, Georges Paulez, Philippe Pourreaux, Suzanne Sauvage, Prasanth Shunmugan, Robert Soroka, Ted Stathopoulos

Alternate Governor: Chelsea Okankwu

Non-voting observer: Jonathan Wener, *Chancellor*

Also attending: Philippe Beauregard, Nadia Bhuiyan, Sylvie Bourassa, William Cheaib, Paul Chesser, Denis Cossette, Michael Di Grappa, Nadia Hardy, Frederica Jacobs, Shelina Houssenaly, Lisa Ostiguy, Anne Whitelaw, Paula Wood-Adams

ABSENT

Governors: Roy Cross, Odile Joannette

1. **Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1.1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

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

R-2021-2-1 *That the Agenda be approved, including the items on the Consent Agenda.*

CONSENT

2. **Adoption of the December 9, 2020 Minutes**

R-2021-2-2 *That the Minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2020 be approved.*

3. Memberships of Advisory Search Committees (BG-2021-2-D1)

This document was provided for information.

4. Request for the use of the Concordia name (BG-2021-2-D2)

R-2021-2-3 *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), the Board of Governors approve the following request to use the Concordia name:*

- *Mentoria Student Association of Concordia*

5. Protocol with SPVM regarding background checks (BG-2021-2-D3)

R-2021-2-4 *That the Board of Governors designate the Director of Security, Jacques Lachance, as the individual responsible for interacting with the City of Montreal Police Department (SPVM) in connection with requests for background checks on behalf of Concordia University and that investigators Lyne Denis and Claude Dastous be designated as the latter's primary and secondary substitute, respectively.*

6. Report on compliance with environmental legislation and health and safety (EH&S) regulations (BG-2021-2-D4)

This report was provided for information.

REGULAR7. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

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

8. President's report (BG-2021-2-D5)

As complementary information to his written report, Dr. Carr updated the Board on other matters, summarized as follows:

- He made some general announcements, which included congratulating Lisa White who, effective May 1, will become the inaugural Executive Director of the University's Equity Office, moving on from her current role as Director of and Senior Advisor of the Office of Rights and Responsibilities.
- He apprised the Board of the exciting initiative to create a School of Health, which will be headed by a dean with responsibilities roughly equivalent to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The academic leadership and executive team are solidly behind this transformative project, the idea of which has been in gestation for many years. Comprehensive consultations are currently ongoing to seek feedback on the proposal,

including an initial webinar held in February attended by over 350 people and subsequent presentations scheduled at Faculty Councils, Senate and University research committees. The proposal will not require ministerial approval. The goal is to seek Senate's approval in May and the Board's in June.

- Globally, registrations have increased by 2% in 2020/2021 compared to last year. January 2021 saw the lowest drop rate ever in any semester. The February Open House, held virtually, surpassed the previous record number of attendees set in the fall, also held virtually. At this point, applications for the 2021/2022 year are ahead by a substantial number compared to last year.
- Dr. Carr update the Board on the steps taken by the University in response to the orientation issued by the Quebec government to universities and CEGEPs to provide opportunities either to take in-person courses or to participate in supervised, small group activities. He outlined the reasons why Concordia, like many other Montreal universities, had opted for the latter option. He indicated that approximately 1,500 individuals are accessing campus daily, the largest group being students and the busiest building being the Science Building on the Loyola Campus which houses several research and teaching labs. He made the point that the number of COVID cases associated with presence on campus is extremely low, with 33 cases since last April, including 8 since January.
- The President concluded his report by apprising Governors that at this point, and as recently announced, it is expected that there will a hybrid course delivery model in the fall, meaning that some courses will be offered in-person and some online. The goal is to welcome as many students as possible and to increase staff presence on campus, bearing in mind that the physical safety of all the community remains paramount. He explained the challenges relative to the scheduling of course sections and the work being done to map out course schedules. The objective is to make an announcement in May regarding the fall term.

9. Finance Committee recommendation regarding *Procurement Policy* (BG-2021-2-D6)

Committee Chair Ken Brooks introduced this item which is being recommended by the Audit Committee, further to review at its meetings of January 14, 2021.

Mr. Cossette apprised the Board that the revisions are a complete reset and update of the existing policy, last updated in 2013, to align the procurement activities with UNITY, comply with all legal requirements and integrate a new design to be transformational. The revised policy will be in alignment with the general principles of the framework for sustainable procurement recently proposed by the Government of Quebec. While the policy will underline the principles, the handbook will outline the processes.

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

R-2021-2-5 *That, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Procurement Policy (CFO-20).*

10. Presentation on future of work-integrated learning

Nadia Bhuiyan, Vice-Provost, Partnerships and Experiential Learning, began her presentation by defining experiential learning (EL) as learning by doing which results in optimal learning outcomes by providing a concrete experience, followed by reflection, abstraction, experimentation and looping back to a concrete experience. While internships and Coop programs are well-known models, there is a wide range of other models that incorporates EL within the real-world contexts.

EL is strategically important since it is not only central to student recruitment but also a higher government and employer priority. It is a primary component of a “next-generation” learning experience and better prepares graduates to enter the workforce or community. EL has been identified by Concordia students as the highest priority for improving learning experience.

Dr. Bhuiyan conveyed the mission to increase the level of impactful EL engagement at Concordia, with the goal that by 2025 every student graduate with at least one EL experience. The challenge rests in how to develop self-sustaining EL opportunities that become part of a required curriculum. She provided an overview of activities supported by the Experiential Learning Office as well as its offers of services across the University.

A mapping exercise done a few years ago culminated in the offer of a wide array of activities grouped in 6 sectors (course-integrated, work-integrated, research-based, community-based, international and student life), resulting in several offerings which have increased EL opportunities (3,000 + co-op placements, 1,200 + courses with EL, 1,000 + partners, 80 student societies that do EL, 134 international opportunities, 1,100 + internships, 78 internship programs, and 16 field schools). She outlined a few of those initiatives, such as RiiPen, CITYSTUDIO, Beat the Odds, and the Innovation Lab. The Institute for Co-operative Education is celebrating its 40 years and has grown significantly, being ranked 2nd in Quebec and 7th in Canada. Additionally, research internships with MITACS have substantially increased, and the amount of funding has grown exponentially, Concordia being 4 out of 72 universities.

Dr. Bhuiyan spoke of the student pathways which is an integrated academic, career and co-curricular development. She noted that the number of EL opportunities had not decreased during the pandemic and that innovative forms of EL can be offered. Going forward, EL models are being rethought to include micro-placements, hackathons, competitions, which move away from approaches requiring extensive time in workplaces, to engage students through shorter activities. Post-COVID, it will be key to understand the needs of industry and community partners and explore together who to design authentic experiences for students and to tap into the alumni network.

Further to her presentation, Dr. Bhuiyan responded to comments and questions.

11. Other business

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

12. Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.



Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors