

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

Held on Friday, December 4, 2020, at 2 p.m.  
via Zoom Video Conferencing

**PRESENT**

Voting members: Graham Carr (*Chair*); Md Foysal Ahmed; Adewunmi Ajike; Ali Akgunduz; Shimon Amir; Nicholas Bailey; Leslie Barker; Guylaine Beaudry; Elizabeth Bloodgood; Catherine Bolton; Sally Cooke; Frank Crooks; Anne-Marie Croteau; Selvadurai Dayanandan; Mourad Debbabi; Alex De Visscher; Effrosyni Diamantoudi; Sri Divya Doppalapudi; Linda Dyer; Mary Esteve; Medhi Farashahi; Elizabeth Fast; Ariela Freedman; Annie Gérin; Vince Graziano; Fiona Harrison-Roberts; Safwan Hye; Hannah Jamet-Lange; Isaiah Joyner; Colin Long; Sarah Mazhero; Christopher Moore; Catherine Mulligan; Helena Osana; Gilles Peslherbe; Duraichelvan Raju; Praneetha Reddy; Pascale Sicotte; Reza Soleymani; Robert Soroka; Ron Stern; Alexander Stojda; Kelly Thompson; Guylaine Vaillancourt; Anne Whitelaw; Paula Wood-Adams; Radu Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Joanne Beaudoin; Philippe Beaugard; Paul Chesser; Stéphanie de Celles; Michael Di Grappa; Isabel Dunnigan; Nadia Hardy; Tom Hughes; Candace Jacobs; Frederica Jacobs

Also attending: Sandra Gabriele; Megan Marcoux

**ABSENT**

Voting members: Matthew Barker; Christopher Brett; James Hanna; Samantha Leger; Virginia Penhune; Natalia Whiteley

Non-voting members: Denis Cossette

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

**1.1 Adoption of the Agenda**

R-2020-7-1     *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

## 1.2 Adoption of November 13, 2020 Minutes

R-2020-7-2 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 13, 2020.*

## 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:

- He congratulated the 1,831 graduates recognized on November 19 as part of CU Celebrate.
- Concordia's Centraide Campaign raised an all-time record of \$204,000, surpassing our goal of \$170,000. Centraide supports more than half a million people in the Montreal area through 350 agencies and projects.
- The Applied Science Hub on the Loyola Campus was officially inaugurated on December 1 via a virtual opening ceremony. He thanked the staff and faculty involved in planning and organizing of the event. The approximately 250 guests and many more on Facebook Live were given a virtual tour of the LEED adherent facilities.
- The Next-Generation Cities Institute was launched on November 26. Co-directed by Ursula Eicker (Canada Excellence Research Chair in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities) and Carmela Cucuzzella (Concordia University Research Chair in Integrated Design, Ecology and Sustainability for the Built Environment), the institute combines over 200 researchers within 14 university research centres.
- Vanessa Mardirossian represented Concordia at the 2020 *Ma thèse en 180 secondes* competition, the French version of the internationally popular Three Minute Thesis competition. She finished third for her presentation "*Des couleurs saines pour un corps sain.*"
- The John Molson School of Business signed a partnership with Ivey Publishing to write, publish and distribute business cases written by the John Molson community to schools around the world.
- Distinguished chemistry and biomolecular sciences professor Howard Alper, a Concordia alumnus, was promoted to the rank of Companion within the Order of Canada, while Françoise Bertrand, a member of the Board of Governors, was appointed a Commander of the Order of Montreal.

**4. Academic update (US-2020-6-D1)**

Dr. Whitelaw had no additional comments to her written report.

**CONSENT**

**5. Committee appointments (US-2020-7-D2)**

R-2020-7-3 *That the committee appointments be approved.*

**6. Academic Programs Committee - Report and recommendations (US-2020-7-D3)**

**6.1 Undergraduate curriculum proposal - Faculty of Arts and Science - Simone de Beauvoir Institute (US-2020-7-D4)**

R-2020-7-4 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposal in the Faculty of Arts and Science be approved.*

**6.2 Undergraduate curriculum proposal - Faculty of Fine Arts - Mel Hoppeheim School of Cinema (US-2020-7-D5)**

R-2020-7-5 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposal in the Faculty of Fine Arts be approved.*

**6.3 Undergraduate curriculum proposals - John Molson School of Business**

**6.3.1 Addition of C.Edge Option to B. Comm (US-2020-7-D6)**

**6.3.2 Honours in Management (US-2020-7-D7)**

**6.3.3 Supply Chain Project (US-2020-7-D8)**

R-2020-7-6 *That the undergraduate curriculum proposals in the John Molson School of Business be approved.*

**6.4 Graduate curriculum proposals - Faculty of Arts and Science**

**6.4.1 Department of Economics (US-2020-7-D9)**

**6.4.2 Department of Religions and Cultures (US-2020-7-D10)**

R-2020-7-7 *That the graduate curriculum proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Science be approved.*

**7. Library Committee report (US-202-7-D11)**

This report was provided for information purposes.

**REGULAR**

## 8. Undergraduate curriculum proposal – Office of the Provost – Introduction of new University Skills courses (US-2020-7-D12)

Dr. Gabriele presented the highlights of this new proposal, developed in collaboration with Concordia's FutureReady program of the Student Success Centre and the Future Skills Innovation Network (FUSION), a pan-Canadian initiative to develop innovative approaches to skills development led by Concordia in collaboration with five other universities.

This objective of this proposal is to address areas where there are gaps for students in workplace-ready skills. The new series of work-integrated learning courses includes four 0-credit courses: digital skills, professional skills and placement skills, 16.5 hours each, together with 400 hours of work-integrated experience. These courses will be built for the various clusters of disciplines that share common program outcomes, focused on addressing the transition from the University into the workforce. While we are starting with Humanities, this slate of courses would eventually be expanded to offer complementary skills for students in business programs, fine arts programs, etc.

Dr. Whitelaw commented that this initiative is exciting because it ties into Concordia's aim to provide every graduating student with an experiential learning opportunity by 2025.

In response to questions, the following information was provided:

- These courses will be reflected on the transcript.
- Students can enroll in this program through SIS.
- The program is aimed at current undergraduate students for the moment.
- There is no GPA requirement.
- This program does not conflict or compete with the Coop program, because it is currently targeting students enrolled in programs that do not have a coop option.
- Students need to be registered in a program to enroll in the University Skills+ program, and there is no additional cost.
- This program is scheduled to begin in February 2021.
- There is currently a capacity of 20 to 30 students per year but there is capacity to grow.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding a similar program at the graduate level.

R-2020-7-8      *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the undergraduate curriculum proposal in the Office of the Provost regarding the new University Skills courses be approved.*

## 9. Question period

Ms. Harrison-Roberts commented that the anonymous feedback is a great idea and wondered how that feedback can be incorporated into the system. Dr. Whitelaw

answered that the mechanism to get the feedback on courses is to provide same to the Department Chairs. This will inform the development of the classes for the next term.

**10. Other business**

There was no other business to bring before the meeting.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.



Danielle Tessier  
Secretary of Senate

