

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

Friday, March 18, 2022  
following the meeting of the Closed Session  
via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting Members: Graham Carr (Chair), Ciprian Alecsandru, Shimon Amir, Leslie Barker, Elizabeth Bloodgood, Catherine Bolton, Carolyn Boulanger, Lovina Angela Brown, Demetre Christopoulos, Anne-Marie Croteau, Alexandra Dawson, Selvadurai Dayanandan, Alex De Visscher, Mourad Debbabi, Larry Deck, Effrosyni Diamantoudi, Mary Esteve, Mehdi Farashahi, Ariela Freedman, Annie Gérin, Marina Ghali, Abdelwahab Hamou-Lhadj, Hannah Jamet-Lange, Eduardo Malorni, Peter Morden, Pat Riva (in replacement of Guylaine Beaudry), Lourdu Reddy Allam, Rosemary Reilly, Pascale Sicotte, Reza Soleymani, Robert Soroka, Craig Townsend, Guylaine Vaillancourt, Jean-Philippe Warren, Deeva Wazir, Anne Whitelaw, Shaina Willison, Paula Wood-Adams, Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Denis Cossette, Ilze Kraulis (in replacement of Stéphanie de Celles), Isabel Dunnigan, Tom Hughes, Candace Jacobs, Frederica Jacobs, Émilie Martel

Also attending: Lisa Ostiguy, Karan Singh

ABSENT

Voting members: Joanna Berzowska, Boutaina Chafi, Queenie Hui Jing Chen, Sally Cooke, Riya Dutta, Linda Dyer, Nicolka Gorel, Moshe Lander, Mitch Mitchell, Prady Cassandra Ngouma Wa, Satinder Pal Singh, Duraichelvan Raju.

Non-voting members: Paul Chesser, Michael Di Grappa, Nadia Hardy

**1. Call to order**

The President called the meeting to order at 2:13 p.m.

### 1.1 Approval of the Agenda

*R-2022-2-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

### 1.2 Adoption of January 21, 2022 Minutes

*R-2022-2-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of January 21, 2022, 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:

- G. Carr began by informing Senate that universities do not often take public positions on geopolitical matters, but the Russian invasion of Ukraine had appalled the world for its gross violation of territorial sovereignty, its indiscriminate assault on civilians and the scale of the refugee crisis it had caused. He shared that the University had reached out directly to the few Ukrainian students at Concordia through many offices: International Students Office, Graduate Studies, Dean of Students. He informed Senate that L. Ostiguy had also spoken to some of them directly, and more generally to other members of our community (faculty, staff and students), including from neighboring countries to provide support and access to services.
- G. Carr noted that the University was providing support to students from the Russian Federation and Belarus as well. The University was also working to expedite admission requests from potential Ukrainian students who had reached out to the University at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He also noted that the University's Academic Visitor program would allow the University to help Ukrainian academics who may be at risk and seeking the opportunity to come to Canada.
- G. Carr shared with Senate that the Refugee Center, which is a student fee levy group, is another resource to support Ukrainian students who may be applying for status in Canada.
- G. Carr noted that as always with these emergencies, the University continued to work with government officials in Québec and Ottawa, and major research funding agencies.
- In terms of COVID-related update, he informed that the University was in the waning half of the semester, and thus the attention had turned to how campus life can be re-animated by supporting conferences, lectures, performances, club activities which have essentially been non-existent for the past two years. He noted that government

directives on public health protocols continue to evolve and relax prior requirements. He confirmed that the University will not be changing the current protocols in place, including the mask mandate.

- The President turned to academic and research news, where he shared with Senators an article in *La Presse*, on Québec universities graduation rates. The data mentioned in the article was measured on a six-year cycle. Generally, there had been a serious decline across Québec affecting the vast majority of universities, however G. Carr was pleased to note that Concordia had bucked that trend, experiencing a 0.7% growth, the highest of any university in Montréal. While it may be premature to speculate on the reasons of this decline, *La Presse* suggested that this could be owing to the effects of COVID on student retention. G. Carr confirmed to Senate that the 0.7% growth was positive and aligned with the outstanding graduation rates of the University in 2020 and 2021.
- On the decline of application numbers for the fall 2022, the President noted that this decline was a combination of undergraduate decline in Québec and decline in graduate international students, despite some growth seen from the rest of Canada. The University had seen some recovery in international numbers, and the admissions numbers had been positive. He noted that the University would closely monitor how many of these admissions turn to registrations.
- G. Carr informed Senate that Concordia was first for a fifth consecutive year in the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings. Concordia was also number one in North America in the QS World University Rankings of the Top 50 Under 50 for a third consecutive year. The University received a Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) gold ranking from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. He thanked M. Di Grappa and his team in the Services and Sustainability sector for their leadership.
- G. Carr congratulated Dean Croteau on being named to the board of the Association to Advance Schools of Business International. Dean Croteau is the only Canadian on this pivotal accreditation body.
- The President shared the announcement that Concordia will co-lead the National Cybersecurity Consortium (NCC) and the Cyber Security Innovation Network, a project supported by \$76.4 million in federal funding over four years. This was going to be the largest single research initiative of which the University has been part. G. Carr congratulated Dean Debbabi, who had been instrumental to this initiative and P. Wood-Adams who will serve as the inaugural chair of the oversight board.
- G. Carr informed Senate of the creation of an Institute for Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) which involves researchers from all four faculties focused on three hubs: AI for health; AI for emerging technologies in next generation cities; and AI for society. This institute was being led by T. Glatard and F. McKelvey. The *La Presse* carried an article about this. The President informed Senate that the Minister E. Caire,

together with Deputy Minister, P. Rodrigue, from the *Ministère de la Cybersécurité et du Numérique* attended the event and that E. Caire was one of the speakers at the launch.

- Lastly, the President congratulated the University's women's hockey team for their berth in the national finals in Charlottetown next week and wished them success in the playoffs for the Québec championship this weekend. He wished the best to the men's and women's basketball teams who are in the Québec playoffs and hoping to earn a berth to the national championships end of the month.

**4. Academic update** (Document US-2022-2-D2)

A. Whitelaw had no additional information to her written report.

**CONSENT**

- 5. Registrar's report on fall graduation statistics** (Document US-2022-2-D3)
- 6. Academic Planning and Priorities Committee report** (Document US-2022-2-D4)
- 7. Library Committee report** (Document US-2022-2-D5)

These reports were provided for information.

**8. Academic Programs Committee - Report and recommendations** (Document US-2022-2-D6)

*R-2022-2-6 That the Academic Programs Committee -Report and recommendations (Document US-2022-2-D6) be approved.*

**9. Graduate calendar regulation changes** (Document US-2022-2-D7)

This report was provided for information.

**REGULAR**

**10. Update on the fall 2023 12-week term implementation**

A. Whitelaw introduced the item and informed Senate of the work that had been led by L. Ostiguy and the new website that is being developed to provide more information to the community on the proposed 12-week term implementation. L. Ostiguy informed Senate of the various stakeholder discussions that had been undertaken over the past months to begin the implementation of the 12-week term, which would be starting in the fall semester of 2023. L. Ostiguy shared with Senate the new website that had been developed, which provided information related to the various phases of this implementation and detailed information on the steps that were being taken for its smooth roll-out.

Following a comment regarding the timing of the winter session reading week, L. Ostiguy confirmed that it will continue to coincide with the elementary and high schools' break.

#### **11. Question period**

R. Reilly enquired about in-person convocation ceremonies. G. Carr confirmed that they will take place at Place des Arts in early June and late August.

H. Jamet-Lange asked for clarification on what the summer semester would look like in terms of mask mandates and other health protocols. The President informed Senate that as in the past, the University was closely watching the evolving situation and decisions remain under review, pending how the health situation evolves, and in consultation with public health officials.

#### **12. Other business**

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

#### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

*Shelina Houssenaly*

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Secretary of Senate