

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

Friday, April 8, 2022  
following the meeting of the Closed Session  
via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting Members: Graham Carr (Chair), Ciprian Alecsandru, Shimon Amir, Leslie Barker, Joanna Berzowska, Elizabeth Bloodgood,Carolynn Boulanger, Lovina Angela Brown, Boutaina Chafi, Queenie Hui Jing Chen, Demetre Christopoulos, Anne-Marie Croteau, Alexandra Dawson, Selvadurai Dayanandan, Alex De Visscher, Mourad Debbabi, Larry Deck, Effrosyni Diamantoudi, Riya Dutta, Linda Dyer, Mehdi Farashahi, Ariela Freedman, Annie Gérin, Marina Ghali, Nicolka Gorel, Abdelwahab Hamou-Lhadj, Hannah Jamet-Lange, Moshe Lander, Peter Morden, Durachelvan Raju, Pat Riva, Lourdu Reddy Allam, Rosemary Reilly, Pascale Sicotte, Reza Soleymani, Robert Soroka, Craig Townsend, Guylaine Vaillancourt, Jean-Philippe Warren, Deeva Wazir, Anne Whitelaw, Shaina Willison, Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Paul Chesser, Denis Cossette, Stéphanie de Celles, Isabel Dunnigan, Nadia Hardy, Tom Hughes, Émilie Martel

Also attending: Karan Singh

ABSENT

Voting members: Catherine Bolton, Sally Cooke, Mary Esteve, Eduardo Malorni, Mitch Mitchell, Prady Cassandra Ngouma Wa, Satinder Pal Singh, Paula Wood-Adams

Non-voting members: Michael Di Grappa, Candace Jacobs, Frederica Jacobs

**1. Call to order**

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

### 1.1 Approval of the Agenda

*R-2022-3-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.*

### 1.2 Adoption of March 18, 2022 Minutes

*R-2022-3-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of March 18, 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 of a matter which had been discussed at the Senate Steering Committee meeting. As part of the modifications to the University's By-Laws, owing to changes brought about by the establishment of the new School of Health, the opportunity was taken, as is always the case, to also make some other modifications to the By-Laws. One such change was to remove the Senate Finance Committee (SFC), whose activities have been suspended since 2019. These changes were brought before the Board at its meeting of March 2022. It was however noted at the Board meeting that as the SFC was a Senate committee, it would be necessary that the discontinuation be approved by Senate first, before seeking Board approval. For such purpose, G. Carr went on to provide the Senators a bit of history of the SFC.
  - In 2019, the SFC itself recommended to Senate that the activities of the SFC be discontinued. The rationale for this recommendation was that, although the main role of the SFC was to provide comments on the costing related to new programs brought forward to Senate, in 2019, a new process had been implemented in relation to the review and approval of costing related to new programs. Senate had agreed with the recommendation because by the time a matter came before the SFC for consideration, it had already gone through multiple levels of reviews and approvals (including by the relevant departments, units and the office of the Chief Financial Officer), thus making the SFC's work somewhat redundant. Further, the timeline of review and approval did not adequately coincide with the implementation of new programs. In 2019, it was felt that given the new process of review and approval of costing, the SFC's work be suspended. However, in 2019, the SFC was not formally abolished by Senate. In including the discontinuation of the SFC as part of the amendment to the By-Laws, a good faith error was made, whereby the specific amendment related to the SFC's discontinuation was directly brought to the Board for approval. G. Carr explained further that this good faith error would be corrected, and the recommendation of the discontinuation of the SFC would be brought before

Senate at its May 2022 meeting for approval and subsequently be recommended to the Board.

- G. Carr began by saluting the efforts of the entire community during the difficult semester, which was delivered effectively under the shadow of the pandemic. G. Carr wished students the best for the final stretch of assignments, performances and exams that are yet to come. He reiterated that the rest of the semester would continue to be delivered with continued health protocols in place.
- He apprised Senate of the various activities that had been happening on campus, including on Wednesday when the University hosted the head of Hydro Québec, S. Brochu, who was in conversation with the University's jurist in residence, M. Minc. G. Carr also noted the terrific event held in 4<sup>th</sup> Space, which acknowledged the work of the Task Force on Anti-Black Racism.
- G. Carr recommended a visit to the Ellen Gallery, which was currently hosting a photographic exhibit by celebrated artist M. Davey, a Concordia alumna. M. Davey is the winner of the Scotiabank Photography Award and the Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship.
- He noted that as public health authorities had not announced the health protocols for the coming months, the University would only follow suit for what will be done for the summer semester.
- Speaking of the application rates for the fall semester, he informed Senate that graduate and international applicants continued to be strong, however undergraduate applications were also affected owing to unfavorable demographics. He noted the need to develop programs with CEGEPs that facilitate entry, as francophone universities have been doing so successfully over the years.
- G. Carr reiterated the support for Ukrainian students and those who continue to be affected by the horrors of the invasion in Ukraine.
- He congratulated the woman's ice hockey Stingers and their coach J. Chu, for their success in Charlottetown. This was the first time since 1999 that they are champions in Québec and nationally, having swept the Québec playoffs and winning three straight victories at the championships in Charlottetown.
- G. Carr congratulated A. Aguy and J. Dessalines for finishing in the top 10 throughout Québec at the *Délie ta langue* competition, which is a public speaking competition to promote eloquence in the French language funded by the *l'Office québécoise de la langue française*, in collaboration with the University of Montréal. G. Carr had the opportunity to attend the finals on March 28<sup>th</sup>, and Concordia was the first anglophone university to participate. He also offered congratulations to C. Bourdon who helped prepare the Concordia participants.

- G. Carr shared with Senators that as part of the University's efforts to raise Concordia's global profile as a sustainability champion, the University has been granted accreditation as an observer of the governing body of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme. Going forward, the University will receive invitations to all public meetings and sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
- He informed Senate that announcements regarding grant programs and student scholarships will be shared at the next Senate meeting.
- Lastly, G. Carr shared his disappointment and that of other Québec universities on the government's introduction of the law on academic liberty. He noted that there was no support for this among universities and given that this is an election year, it is possible that the legislative project may not become law before the dissolution of the National Assembly. He informed Senate that BCI will be repeating its opposition on behalf of the university sector, as all universities are committed to academic freedom, whilst supporting a culture of respect.

#### 4. **Academic update** (Document US-2022-3-D2)

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

#### CONSENT

#### 5. **Academic Planning and Priorities Committee report** (Document US-2022-3-D3)

#### 6. **Research Committee report** (Document US-2022-3-D4)

These reports were provided for information.

#### REGULAR

#### 7. **Graduate Billing Reform – Course-based Masters** (Document US-2022-3-D5)

E. Diamantoudi presented the graduate billing reform as it applies to course-based master's programs. Details were provided that the changes were not going to impact Ph.D thesis and master's thesis programs. She informed Senate that any course-based master's student admitted from the summer 2022 term onwards will have their tuition billed per credit rather than per term and demonstrated why per-credit billing is an ideal structure for course-based programs. She presented the challenges of the current billing system and the benchmarking conducted across Québec universities. She explained that this reform was to improve the graduate student experience and will not increase the total cost of tuition. She also apprised Senate of other adjustments required to align with the new tuition billing practice, such as the changes related to the Full-time/Part-time status definition.

This item was provided for information.

**8. Question period**

There were no questions asked during the question period.

**9. Other business**

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

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

*Shelina Houssenaly*

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Secretary of Senate