

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

Friday, May 19, 2023
following the meeting of the Closed Session
in the Applied Science Hub Amphitheatre
(Room HU-125) on the Loyola Campus
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting Members:

Graham Carr (Chair)	Effrosyni Diamantoudi	Peter Morden
Nagendra S. A. Appala	Mary Esteve (via Zoom)	David Morris
Leslie Barker	Mehdi Farashahi (via Zoom)	Catherine Mulligan
Sabine Bergler	Annie Gérin	Xavier Ottenwaelder
Beverley Best (via Zoom)	Marina Ghali (via Zoom)	Ian Rakita
Catherine Bolton	Fawaz Halloum (via Zoom)	Pat Riva
Sally Cooke (via Zoom)	Steve Henle (left at 3:24)	Ahmadou Sakho
Anne-Marie Croteau	Asli Isaaq	Pascale Sicotte
Fabienne Cyrius	Stefanie Tsi-Ying Lamothe (via Zoom)	Kelly Thompson
Alexandra Dawson	Michael Lecchino	Craig Townsend
Selvadurai Dayanandan	Christopher Moore	Guylaine Vaillancourt
Mourad Debbabi	(via Zoom)	Anne Whitelaw
Larry Deck		Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Stéphanie de Celles, Denis Cossette (via Zoom), Isabel Dunnigan (via Zoom), Michael Di Grappa (via Zoom), Nadia Hardy, Tom Hughes, Frederica Jacobs, Émilie Martel (via Zoom), Stefana Nita (via Zoom)

Also attending: Caroline Baril, Patrice Blais, Jason Camlot, Alexandrah Cardona (via Zoom), William Cheaib, Sandra Gabriele, Shelina Houssenaly (via Zoom), Lisa Ostiguy, Melodie Sullivan

ABSENTVoting members:

Dominique Bérubé	Samreet Kaur	Mireille Paquet
Matthew Barker	Moshe Lander	Thenmozhi Rajan
William Dickson	Sofia Lipari-Couture	Nachiketh R. Ravindra
Rebecca Kanida	Fuzhan Nasiri	Sofiane Tahar

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Paul Chesser

1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2023-4-4 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of April 14, 2023 Minutes

R-2023-4-5 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of April 14, 2023 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 congratulating the more than 8000 students who will be graduating at convocation ceremonies, which was a record number of graduating students for the second year in a row. He thanked all faculty and staff for supporting the students over their last several years.
- There was also an outstanding slate of honorary doctorate recipients, and G. Carr invited everyone to join the convocation ceremonies, which will be held in the third week of June at Places des Arts.
- From a research standpoint, this is an exciting time at Concordia. Jason Lewis, a faculty member in the Department of Design and Computational Arts, was awarded a SSHRC partnership grant, valued at \$2.4M, and also one of 6 New Frontiers in Research grants, which is valued at \$23M, the largest individual grant that any

researcher has received in Concordia's history. This funding is for an international project which focuses on Indigenous knowledge and artificial intelligence.

- At the end of April, the Government of Canada announced the results of the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, which is to fund major projects over seven years. Concordia was one of 11 universities in Canada to receive funding and was awarded \$123M, for research in the electrification of society. This funding is to recognize national leadership in research and vault them into global leadership. Since then, additional funding of about \$55M from the Government of Québec and other private and public funding has also been secured. G. Carr congratulated the research team led by Andreas Athienitis, Ursula Eicker, Karim Zaghib, and Carmela Cuccuzella. He also thanked M. Debbai, D. Bérubé, Lyes Kadem, Paula Wood-Adams, and everyone at the Office of Research for their work on this. This was a huge endeavor and went through many phases of competition. The University is very proud of this accomplishment, which has positioned Concordia as a global leader in the field of electrification. G. Carr noted that he, M. Debbabi, Karim Zaghib and Ursula Eicker just attended a talk given by Honorable Minister Fitzgibbon on the electrification of Québec. The University has great partners on the grant in Dalhousie University, TMU and University of Calgary, Indigenous Clean Energy, the cities of Toronto, Calgary, Halifax and Shawinigan, and a number of private and public sector partners.
- The awarding of the Canada First Research Excellence Fund was also a great coup for the University because the Government of Canada chose Concordia as the venue to make the announcement, with Honorable Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne, Ted Hewitt from SSHRC, Mona Nemer, the Chief Scientist of Canada and Rémi Quirion, the Chief Scientist of Québec in attendance on campus for two hours. G. Carr thanked the teams in Facilities, Advancement, Communications and Hospitality for a fantastic event.
- The University is also opening a thematic campus in the city of Shawinigan to house a handful of researchers and graduate students focusing specifically on battery development, as Shawinigan has become a hub for battery development in Quebec and globally. The thematic campus is being established in part to position Concordia in relation to the announcement that is expected from the government in the next few weeks, which will involve the creation of a *Zone d'innovation* in this region. G. Carr underlined that all of these projects and achievements had been years in the making and thanked everyone for their efforts and contributions for these outstanding accomplishments.
- He spoke to how there were only 15 universities who received Apogée grants in addition to Concordia. Memorial and TMU were included in the grant recipients, which speaks to the good work done by the comprehensive universities in Canada. In Montréal, both McGill and Université de Montreal were also recipients of the award, which underscores Montréal's status as a leading city for research.

4. Academic update (Document US-2023-4-D2)

A. Whitelaw noted that there was nothing to add to the written Academic Update that had been circulated with the meeting documentation.

CONSENT

5. Tribunal Pool/Committee Nominations (Document US-2023-4-D3)

R-2023-4-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Tribunal Pool and Committee appointments be approved.

6. Committee reports (Document US-2023-4-D4)

7. Library Spectrum Report (Document US-2023-4-D5)

These reports were provided for information purposes only.

8. Revisions to the Guidelines for scheduling examinations (Document US-2023-4-D6)

The President noted that for information purposes, this old policy was simply being updated to align it to the new practise of the 12-week semester in the fall. A further revision and update would be undertaken and brought to the Academic Programs Committee of Senate in due course.

R-2023-4-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, following the recommendation of the Steering Committee, Senate approve the modifications to the Guidelines for the scheduling of exams in the final week of the fall and winter term, as provided for in Document US-2023-4-D6

9. Revisions to the Membership and Mandate of Senate Standing Committees
(Document US-2023-4-D7)

R-2023-4-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, following approval and recommendation of various standing committees of Senate, Senate approve the revisions to the Membership and functions of Standing Committees of Senate, as provided for in Document US-2023-4-D7.

REGULAR

10. Canadian Graduate and Professional Survey

E. Diamantoudi presented the Canadian Graduate and Professional Survey. She spoke to the various questions asked and polled in relation to graduate studies and the graduate experience across universities in Canada. The presentation included some key findings and was a curated portion of the survey, which ranged from academic experiences, quality of programs, opportunities, etc.

Some of the categories where Concordia University fared well included: public transportation services (the Shuttle), food services, supervision at the graduate level, professional development opportunities, library facilities, housing assistance and childcare services.

Some areas of opportunities included: experiential learning opportunities, contact with practicing professionals, and financial support advice.

This is an overall positive survey result, with some opportunity and improvement areas for graduate studies at the University.

11. Academic Freedom Policy approval (Document US-2023-4-D8)

The President introduced the item and prefaced that this policy was pursuant to a legislative mandate.

A. Whitelaw introduced the policy, explained in detail the drafting process, the community consultation and provided a summary of the provisions in the policy and the proposed mechanisms, most of which were guided by the legislation, but also existing policies and frameworks within the University. She explained that while the legislation required a review of the policy every 10 years, and that Concordia's policies are reviewed every 5, given the nature of the policy and to review its application, it was recommended to review the policy in 2 years.

Senators had questions about the composition of the Academic Freedom Committee, the redressal mechanisms and what remedies would be available to the complainant. A. Whitelaw explained that the committee composition was discussed in considerable detail and a balance was struck between what has been done at other universities, the realities of the Concordia community and the legislative mandate.

J. Camlot was given speaking privileges and spoke to the work done by the drafting committee. F. Cyrius, who was also a member of the committee spoke to the process of committee formation and noted that the final composition was to allow for consensus decision making.

Amendment No. 1

I. Rakita introduced an amendment to allow for an additional two CUFA members on the Academic Freedom Committee, the motion was seconded and voted upon.

R-2023-4-9 That, Senate approve the addition of two more members from the CUFA bargaining unit, one full-time faculty and one librarian, to the Academic Freedom Committee.

The motion was duly moved and seconded and was defeated as it did not receive a majority vote of members present and voting. Eight members voted in favour.

Amendment No. 2

C. Bolton introduced an amendment to delete certain terms from the policy and the motion read as follows:

R-2023-4-10 That, Senate approve the Academic Freedom Policy, which is provided in Document US-2023-4-D8, with the deletion of the words "or suspend" and "or suspending", with such adaptations to the Policy as may be required.

The motion was duly moved and seconded, and was passed by unanimous vote.

Following the passage of the amendment no. 2, the President called for a vote on the motion before Senate for the approval of the policy:

R-2023-4-11 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was resolved by a majority vote that, following the recommendation of the Steering Committee, Senate approve the Academic Freedom Policy as provided for in Document US-2023-4-D8, as modified by the approved Amendment No. 2.

12. Question period

There were no questions during question period.

13. Other business

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

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of Senate