

SENATE ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024

CONCORDIA

CONTENTS

Chair's Message	1
Mandate	2
Standing Committees	2
Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (APPC)	
Academic Programs Committee (APC)	
Distinguished Professor Emeriti and Distinguished Librarian Emeriti Committee	
Ethics Committee	
Library Committee	
Research Committee	
Special Graduation Awards Committee	
Steering Committee	
Meetings	2
Policies and Processes	
Program and other approvals	
Senate Standing Committees	
General	
Membership	4

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Annual Report of the Senate of Concordia University provides a snapshot of important events and accomplishments from the 2023-24 academic year.

During this period, Concordia reached new heights in teaching, research, innovation and, as a result, international reputation. At the same time, our community had to confront critical challenges, which will require concerted, university-wide responses in the years ahead.

Thanks to our excellent faculty, driven students and dedicated staff, the world is seeing Concordia as a university on the move. In 2024, the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings placed Concordia 80th among universities under 50 years old worldwide, top in North America and best in Canada for the seventh straight year.

Key institutional priorities also continue to advance. The President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism [released its one-year progress report](#) with updates on the implementation of approximately 20 projects. The Indigenous Directions Action Plan guided initiatives that [offered new language programs](#), [welcomed experts-in-residence](#) and [shared best practices toward decolonizing academic institutions](#). Finally, more than 6,000 students participated in experiential learning opportunities, with 90 per cent of placements in and around Montreal.

After a landmark year for research funding in 2022-23, Concordia scientists and scholars got down to work. [Volt-Age](#), one of the largest electrification initiatives in Canada, [funded 36 seed projects](#), [signed an MOU with Northvolt North America](#) and [launched its innovative Planning for Impact program](#). Faculty, students and alumni received dozens of prestigious honours, including the [Order of Canada](#), a [3M National Teaching Fellowship](#), [Vaniers](#), [Bantings](#), and a [Rhodes Scholarship](#). At spring Convocation, Concordia granted degrees to more than 1,700 graduate students, its largest-ever cohort.

Despite the myriad successes, the past year was exceptionally difficult for the Concordia community. A trifecta of challenges emerged: a budget deficit requiring painful cuts and a formal recovery plan; the Government of Québec's significant increase to tuition fees for students from the rest of Canada and revisions of the funding formula for international students; and tensions resulting from the tragic and ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Throughout the year, Concordia faculty, including many members of Senate, provided invaluable leadership in helping tackle these and other issues — as formal or informal advisors to the administration, in departmental and faculty roles, and every day in their classrooms, labs and studios. In addition, researchers and scholars are playing a major role in [STRIVE: Standing Together against Racism and Identity-based Violence](#), a task force aimed at addressing some of the complex questions we're facing as a community.

Looking ahead, 2024-25 will be a special year, with the university celebrating its 50th anniversary. Throughout its history, Concordia has excelled by prioritizing accessibility, diversity and excellence, by fostering creativity and innovation, and by making a positive difference in the lives of our students and the world they go on to shape.

Thank you to all senators — incoming, returning and outgoing — for your steadfast commitment to these values and for ensuring our campuses remain open, welcoming and inclusive places for all.



Graham Carr
President and Vice-Chancellor

MANDATE

Senate is responsible for the academic governance of the university, including matters related to research, faculties, departments, libraries, programs and courses, academic standards, regulations, policies and procedures, and the granting of degrees, diplomas and certificates (excluding honorary degrees). The functions and powers of Senate are listed in [Section 13](#) of the By-Laws.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The work of Senate is supported by its standing committees which regularly report to Senate and bring forward recommendations as required. A full description of each committee's composition and mandate is included in the [Membership and Functions of Senate Standing Committees](#).

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE (APPC)

Reviews planning priorities and provides input as appropriate, supports the academic planning function of the university and makes reports and recommendations to Senate on academic planning and academic priorities.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (APC)

Coordinates and makes recommendations to Senate regarding credit programs and undergraduate academic regulations.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITI AND DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIAN EMERITI COMMITTEE

Assesses and reviews nominations and recommends to Senate the awarding of the titles of Distinguished Professor Emeriti and Distinguished Librarian Emeriti.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Oversees and enforces the application of the *Code of Ethics and Conduct Applicable to Members of Senate and Members of Committees Established by Senate* ([US-1](#)).

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Acts as an advisory body to the University Librarian and Senate in connection with library objectives, policies and budget, and the development of its services and collections.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Studies and makes recommendations to Senate concerning the development, administration, guidelines and policies regarding research and the support thereof.

SPECIAL GRADUATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

Solicits and reviews nominations and recommends recipients to Senate for the eight special graduation awards.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Reviews Senate Agendas and ensures that the documentation forwarded to Senate is appropriate and in a form that permits effective debate.

MEETINGS

Six regular meetings of Senate were held during the 2023-24 academic year:

September 29, 2023	February 9, 2024
November 3, 2023	March 22, 2024
December 15, 2023	May 17, 2024

All Senate meetings were held in person, with the option to join remotely.

The highlights of the main topics discussed during those meetings are summarized below.

POLICIES AND PROCESSES

Revisions and updates were made to these policies as part of periodic update and revision of policies.

- *Policy on the Conferral of the Title of Distinguished Professor Emeriti or Distinguished Librarian Emeriti* ([US-3](#)):
- *Policy on the Establishment of Tribunal Hearing Pools* ([BD-6](#)):

PROGRAM AND OTHER APPROVALS:

Senate approved the following new programs in 2023-24:

Executive MBA refresh: To ensure that the John Molson School of Business Executive MBA program remains at the forefront of business education and equips students with the relevant skills and knowledge to navigate these evolving challenges, the Executive MBA refresh aligns the program's curriculum with current market needs. The revisions to the program are designed to better prepare Concordia University Executive MBA graduates to lead in this new era of business.

Microprogram in Applied Artificial Intelligence:

The Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science proposed a new Microprogram in Applied Artificial Intelligence, an eight-credit graduate program that focuses on project-driven and experiential learning and seeks to attract current graduate students, alumni and working professionals with a programming background who are interested in developing their AI skills in a practical setting. The microprogram covers the main techniques involved in today's AI systems from traditional statistical learning to advanced deep learning models.

Microprogram in Sustainability: The Microprogram in Sustainability is an interdisciplinary eight-credit microprogram co-taught by faculty members who will bring their knowledge and expertise to explore sustainability from different disciplines and perspectives. The microprogram will include one course that extends over eight weeks in the summer. Students will be expected to commit full-time during one week of lectures and complete work on case studies for the remaining seven weeks. The microprogram seeks to attract graduate students and professionals interested in deepening their knowledge of sustainability and/or interested in incorporating sustainability into their research or workplace.

Bachelor of Engineering in Cybersecurity

Engineering: The 120-credit BEng program is designed for students who want a thorough education that combines core engineering with specialized cybersecurity training. It targets recent secondary school and CEGEP graduates with a strong foundation in STEM, and professionals from the tech industry looking to specialize in cybersecurity. It is also ideal for career changers aiming to upskill and move into tech-centric roles.

Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity: This BSc program is for students seeking a targeted education in cybersecurity that can be completed in a shorter timeframe. Compared with the Bachelor of Engineering in Cybersecurity Engineering program, the BSc Program 1) does not include the extensive engineering training provided by the engineering core courses; 2) requires a much smaller set of cybersecurity core courses (50% of that of bachelor of engineering), which makes it a perfect fit for those who may already have some information technology experience or education and are looking to upskill, as well as those eager to dive quickly into cybersecurity careers, including roles that require a deep, but less broad, understanding of the field.

Graduate Diploma in Teacher Certification: The Department of Education is launching a graduate-level GDTC Program, consisting of 30 credits. The proposed GDTC Program is a strategic response to the pressing needs within Québec's educational landscape: critical teacher shortage and teacher attrition in Québec, professional development for uncertified practicing teachers for specific challenges teachers encounter in classrooms, flexible schedule for work-life balance and more affordable education leading to the teaching license in Québec.

Graduate Certificate in Curatorial Studies and Practices and Graduate Microprogram in Curatorial Studies: A new graduate certificate in Curatorial Studies and a Graduate Microprogram in Curatorial Studies were proposed by the Faculty of Fine Arts to fill a gap in the area for expertise in curatorial practise.

Senate also approved the recognition of the **Centre for Innovation in Construction and Infrastructure Engineering and Management** as a research unit. The Centre promotes and initiates innovative research and knowledge-based solutions for improving quality, productivity, safety and competitiveness of the Canadian construction industry through the following areas: Automation and Robotics in Construction.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

Updates were also made to the [Membership and Functions of Senate Standing Committees](#) of some of the Senate committees, which updates were approved by Senate on May 17, 2024.

GENERAL

The following individuals gave presentations throughout the year to keep Senators apprised of ongoing activities, projects and initiatives:

- Dr. Whitelaw made a presentation on the success of new academic programs that have been approved by Senate; and
- Amy Fish and Aisha Topsakal presented the highlights of the [Ombuds Office Annual Report](#) and the [Office of Rights and Responsibilities Annual Report](#), respectively

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Senate for 2023-24
(as of May 1, 2024) included:

VOTING MEMBERS

Ex-officio

Graham Carr

President and Vice-Chancellor

Anne Whitelaw

Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Dominique Bérubé

Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies

Pascale Sicotte

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

Mourad Debbabi

*Dean, Gina Cody School of Engineering and
Computer Science*

Annie Gérin

Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

Anne-Marie Croteau

Dean, John Molson School of Business

Véronique Pepin

Interim Dean, School of Health

Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi

Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Amy Buckland

University Librarian

Faculty of Arts and Science

Leslie Barker (PT)

Matthew Barker

Beverly Best

Theresa Bianco

Selvadurai Dayanandan

Ariela Freedman

Steven Henle

Moshe Lander

David Morris

Xavier Ottenwaelder

Mireille Paquet

Rosemary Reilly

Craig Townsend

Roberto Viereck-Salinas

Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science

Catherine Mulligan

Zachary Patterson

Ahmed Soliman

Sofiène Tahar

Radu Zmeureanu

Faculty of Fine Arts

Sally Cooke (PT)

Roy Cross

Bonnie Harnden

Christopher Moore

John Molson School of Business

Fabienne Cyrius (PT)

Alexandra Dawson

Medhi Farashahi

Ian Rakita

Professional Librarian

Larry Deck

Undergraduate Students

Angelica Antonakopoulos

Alexandrah Cardona

Niraj Dayanandan

Marina Ghali

Dany-Ariel Ishimwe

Michael Lecchino

Harley Martin

Robert Padmore

Deep Patel

Mahshid Rahbari

Melissa Spiridigliozzi

Graduate Students

Arnav Ishaan

Charles Rohinth Joseph

Mehdi Kharazmi

Raghulkanna Lakshmanan

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex-officio

Philippe Beauregard
Chief Communications Officer

Paul Chesser
Vice-President, Advancement

Denis Cossette
Chief Financial Officer

Stéphanie de Celles
University Registrar

Michael Di Grappa
Vice-President, Services and Sustainability

Isabel Dunnigan
*Associate Vice-President, Professional Education and
Valorisation du français*

Nadia Hardy
Deputy Provost

Frederica Jacobs
Secretary-General and General Counsel

Administrative and Support Staff representatives

Stefana Nita
Olivia Ward

GCS part-time faculty member

Carlos Santana

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Karan Singh

GOVERNANCE TEAM

Caroline Leamon



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