

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

Friday, May 17, 2024,
in the Norman D. Hébert, LLD Meeting Room
(Room EV 2.260) SGW Campus
and via Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT

Voting members:

Graham Carr (Chair)	Mourad Debbabi	David Morris
Leslie Barker	Larry Deck	Catherine Mulligan (zoom)
Matthew Barker (zoom)	Effrosyni Diamantoudi	Xavier Ottenwaelder
Dominique Bérubé	Mehdi Farashahi (zoom)	Véronique Pepin (zoom)
Beverley Best	Annie Gérin (zoom)	Mahshid Rahbari
Theresa Bianco	Marina Ghali	Rosemary Reilly
Amy Buckland	Steve Henle (zoom)	Pascale Sicotte
Alexandrah Cardona	Arnav Ishaan	Ahmed Soliman
Roy Cross	Charles Rohinth Joseph	Melissa Spiridigliozzi
Anne-Marie Croteau	Mehdi Kharazmi	(zoom)
Fabienne Cyrius (zoom)	Raghulkanna Lakshmanan	Sofiène Tahar (zoom)
Alexandra Dawson	Michael Lecchino	Craig Townsend
Niraj Dayanandan	Christopher Moore	Roberto Viereck-Salinas
Selvadurai Dayanandan	Harley Martin	Anne Whitelaw
		Radu Grigore Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: Philippe Beauregard, Denis Cossette, Stéphanie de Celles, Isabel Dunnigan (zoom), Nadia Hardy, Frederica Jacobs, Stefana Nita, Carlos Santana, Olivia Ward

Also attending: Ali Akgunduz, Caroline Baril, Saul Carliner, Richard Courtemanche, Sandra Gabriele, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Chun Wang, Amr Youssef

ABSENT

Voting members:

Angelica Antonakopoulos	Dany-Ariel Ishimwe	Deep Patel
Sally Cooke	Moshe Lander	Zachary Patterson
Ariela Freedman	Robert Padmore	Ian Rakita
Bonnie Harnden	Mireille Paquet	

Non-voting members: Paul Chesser, Michael Di Grappa

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

R-2024-3-6 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda of the Open Session be approved.

1.2 Adoption of March 22, 2024, Minutes

R-2024-3-7 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Open Session meeting of March 22, 2024, be adopted.

CONSENT

2. Tribunal Pool/Committee Appointments (Document US-2024-3-D4)

R-2024-3-8 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that the Tribunal Pool and Committee appointments be approved.

3. Committee reports (Document US-2024-3-D5)

These reports were provided for information only.

4. Revisions to the Policy on Establishment of Tribunal Pools (BD-6)
(Document US-2024-3-D6)

R-2024-3-9 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Steering Committee, Senate approve the revisions to the Policy on the Establishment of Tribunal Hearing Pools (BD-6), as per the attached document.

5. Revisions to the Senate Standing Committee (Document US-2024-3-D7)

R-2024-3-10 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, it was unanimously resolved that, upon recommendation of the Senate Research Committee and Senate Steering, Senate approve the modifications to the membership of the Senate Research Committee, as detailed in the attached document.

REGULAR

6. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

There was no business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.

7. President's remarks

- Dr. Carr began by marking the end of the winter semester and noting that the first summer session is already underway. The past seven months since October 2023 have been extraordinarily difficult. In the space of a few days, the University community was shaken by the events in the Middle East and then by the decision of the government of Québec penalizing the anglophone universities.
- Dr. Carr thanked the University community, faculty, students and staff, staff associations, and friends who have shown steadfast support to the University.
- He acknowledged that, while the University responded to the challenging circumstances as well as possible, there were certainly things that could have been done better. However, no one in the higher education sector believes that perfection is the standard of performance. With what has been happening across North American campuses, he noted with pride that Concordia had delivered its semester to students, without having to move courses online, without cancelling any events or activities that had been sanctioned by the University. While this may not seem a great metric of performance in normal times, these are not normal times.
- Dr. Carr then spoke of the creation of STRIVE, a task force looking at multiple forms of racism and identity-based hatred on campus, including antisemitism and islamophobia anti-Asian racism and transphobia, that had been announced the month before. The task force is also looking more broadly at the campus climate and developing means through which our community can engage in productive dialogue around difficult issues. Six working groups plus a steering committee (that also includes heads of working groups) have been formed.
- Task force models have been used effectively at Concordia in the past to a) provide a forum to allow members of the community to share their experiences and observations; b) provide an inclusive mechanism to allow participation through working groups in seeking and proposing answers; and c) lead to the development of actionable recommendations that are designed to improve our outcomes as an institution.

- Convocation is around the corner and this year the University will be celebrating the graduation of more than 5,700 students: 4,020 undergrads and more than 1,700 graduate students. This is the largest ever graduate student cohort in Concordia's history, which reflects positively on the growth of research at the University. Dr. Carr noted that there is a need to focus on celebration as some of this year's graduating students began their time at Concordia during COVID and, for some, their studies have also ended with the pall of the Middle East crisis negatively impacting their campus experience. Given these circumstances, he expressed hope that joy and celebration will be expressed at this year's Convocation ceremonies.
- Dr. Carr noted the accomplishments of two Senators: Harley Martin, who received the McCall-MacBain scholarship and who will begin a master's in public policy at McGill this fall; and Rosemary Reilly, professor and department chair in Applied Human Sciences, who has won the coveted 3M National Teaching Fellowship Award. Each year, only 10 faculty members across Canada receive this award.
- He then shared some further great news: Concordia University is now ranked by Times Higher Education in the top 100 Young Universities in the world; and it is now ranked #1 in North American universities under 50. Last year, the University ranked among the top 150-200 young universities; this year the rank was 80th. This represents a major leap forward as the University prepares to enter its 50th year.

He thanked all Senators for their work and service to the University during the year.

8. **Academic update** (Document US-2024-3-D8)

Dr. Whitelaw had no additional comments to add to the report that was provided.

9. **APC recommendation - new program: Bachelor of Engineering - Cybersecurity Engineering (GCS-CIISE-5564)** (Document US-2024-3-D9)

Dean Debbabi presented this item along with the BSc in Cybersecurity (motion noted below) and summarized the important features of both programs:

- Given the increasing number of cyber threats and the shortage of expertise in the area, where 1 in 6 cybersecurity jobs remain unfilled, the programs would serve to fill an important gap.
- He explained that there are about 90 programs offered around Canada that have some components of cybersecurity, but there are no dedicated programs.
- He also noted that there was no risk of impact on enrolment in other programs, as the programs are attracting new students and will contribute to heightening the University's reputation.
- There were questions about the handling of sensitive information in these programs. Dean Debbabi explained that the University already works with government (the RCMP, Competition Bureau) and companies and has the required expertise in-house to deal with all sorts of sensitive information. On another question about overlaps

between the BEng and BSc programs and the faculty's capacity to teach these programs, Dean Debbabi explained that the B.Sc. had no engineering core and that the programs would be leveraging 20 faculty members, and as such, there is adequate capacity to teach both programs.

R-2024-3-11 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, that, on recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the new program Bachelor of Engineering in Cybersecurity Engineering (GCS-CIISE-5564), as detailed in the attached documentation.

10. APC recommendation - new program: Bachelor of Science - Cybersecurity (GCS-CIISE 5566) (Document US-2024-3-D10)

R-2024-3-12 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, that, on recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the new program Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity (GCS-CIISE-5566), as detailed in the attached documentation.

11. APC recommendation - new program: Graduate Diploma - Teacher Certification (AS-EDUC-5510) (Document US-2024-3-D11)

Dean Sicotte presented this program:

- It is a new component, a graduate diploma to respond to the pressing need in the province where there is currently shortage of certified teachers.
- 25% of teachers in Quebec are teaching without a license. Those who are currently teaching in the system without a license would be eligible for admission to the program, as long as they fulfill certain criteria.
- The program's recognition of acquired competencies approach allows for 14 competencies of teachers to be developed and the program ensures that its graduates are eligible to get a teaching job right away.

R-2024-3-13 Upon motion duly moved and seconded, that, on recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the new program Graduate Diploma in Teacher Certification (AS-EDUC-5510), as detailed in the attached documentation.

12. APC recommendation - new programs: Graduate Certificate - Curatorial Studies and Practices (FA-ARTH-5506) (Document US-2024-3-D12)

13. Graduate Microprogram - Curatorial Studies (FA-ARTH-5507) (Document US-2024-3-D12)

Dean Gérin presented the two graduate programs. There are no academic programs in the province that offer curatorial training. The Faculty of Fine Arts already has considerable expertise in this area in research and dissemination. The programs have received letters of support from community, museums and various artist-run centers.

The program has a significant component of experiential learning.

R-2024-3-14 *Upon motion duly moved and seconded, that, on recommendation of the Academic Programs Committee, Senate approve the new programs:*

- *Graduate Certificate in Curatorial Studies and Practices (FA-ARTH-5506) and*
- *Graduate Microprogram in Curatorial Studies (FA-ARTH-5507) as detailed in the attached documentation.*

14. Report on academic programs

Dr. Whitelaw made a presentation on the success of programs that have been approved by Senate. This was in response to a question that was asked at a previous meeting of Senate. Her presentation is summarized below:

- She began with a detailed list of all undergraduate and graduate programs approved by Senate in the past 10 years, which included majors, specializations, minors, certificates, diplomas, masters, PhDs and most recently, micro-credentials.
- Program review is the purview of departments and faculties, and eventually, the Office of the Provost. When changes are made to programs, they go through the appropriate process at the departmental and Faculty levels, including School of Graduate Studies, before being reviewed by the Academic Programs Committee ((APC) - a committee of Senate), and eventually, Senate itself. She noted that some questions have come up recently on the role of Senate in the approval of programs and whether that role has been diminished; however, she reiterated that only Senate has the power to approve programs. While Senate delegated the approval of minor program changes to the APC in the previous year, all major and substantive changes still need Senate approval, and even minor changes that have been approved are reported to Senate.
- Dr. Whitelaw then presented the governance process related to all program approvals, from: Letter of intent – Department program and/or curriculum Committee – Department council – Faculty curriculum committee – Faculty council – graduate programs reviewed by Council of SGS. Following these steps in the process, all programs go to APC before going to Senate.
- Dr. Whitelaw provided three examples of programs and how their success was measured. Various factors go into evaluating the success of programs: enrolment numbers, cost, reputation/contribution to research, importance of the contextual data that helps situate a particular program within the larger suite of programs offered in a department (or in some cases, a faculty). She underlined that program evaluation does not follow a one size fits all approach. For her three examples she chose undergraduate and graduate programs from different disciplines that were not less than five years old, given that new programs need a bit of time to settle and for enrolment to stabilize.

- Following the three examples/case studies, Dr. Whitelaw noted that the costs noted in the examples does not include the cost of heating buildings, electricity, AV, cleaning, etc.
- She concluded by restating that various factors go into determining the success of a program and that it is not clear-cut.
- Program reviews happen at the University every 7 to 10 years as part of the departmental reviews mandated by the government. It is a massive undertaking when done once a decade. The University is considering scheduling program reviews within shorter timeframes, so that they are more regular and would perhaps prove lighter than the major departmental reviews. This would also allow for early interventions to make adjustments to programs that may not be functioning optimally.
- Senators thanked Dr. Whitelaw for the detailed presentation and reminder on what goes into program review and approval. There were other specific questions related to the presentation, which she clarified.

15. Concordia's Strategic Directions at 50

Dr. Carr spoke to the existing strategic directions of the University that were established in 2016. As the University moves to marking its 50th anniversary, it is an opportune time to refresh the strategic directions. This is a topic of discussion that will be brought up in the coming year, with request for input from Senators and other members of the community.

16. Question period

There were no additional questions asked during the question period.

17. Other business

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

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

K. Singh
Karan Singh
Secretary of Senate