

SENATE ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

CONCORDIA

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This annual report of Concordia University's Senate shares highlights from the 2022-23 academic year. It was a period of progress toward key academic, research and social commitments — one marked by historic achievements, but also new challenges. Concordia continues to garner attention globally.

The THE Young University Rankings named us best in Canada for a sixth consecutive year. For the fourth straight year, the QS World University Rankings placed Concordia as the top university under 50 years old in North America, and it ranked us in the top 400 universities *worldwide* for the first time. Such recognition reflects the actions Concordia has taken in support of our ambitious institutional strategies.

In April, we launched PLAN/NET ZERØ, a roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality in our building infrastructure by 2040. We continue to implement recommendations from the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism, such as opening the NouLa Centre for Black Students. And, after committing last fall to provide every student at least one experiential learning opportunity before graduation, more than 4,000 students participated in "learning-by-doing" projects in 2022.

A fundamental source of Concordia's strength is our faculty, and they made 2022-23 a record-setting year for research. Concordia received both the largest individual and institutional research grants in our history. Jason Lewis was awarded \$23 million to explore how Indigenous knowledges can improve AI, and our project "Electrifying Society" received \$123 million from the Government of Canada to supercharge our efforts in electrification, smart buildings and net-zero communities.

We recruited 45 tenure-track faculty in 2022-23 and filled critical leadership positions, including the appointments of Dominique Bérubé as vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies, Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi as dean of graduate studies, and Amy Buckland as university librarian, as well as the reappointment of Paul Chesser as vice-president of University Advancement.

Despite our successes, Concordia faces a sobering fiscal reality. After two decades of growth, the university is experiencing a decline in recruitment. Changing demographics and a robust job market resulted in a decrease in Quebec students attending Concordia, which significantly impacts our bottom line. As a result, the Board of Governors approved a \$19.4 million deficit for fiscal year 2023-24.

Given the financial challenges, it's welcome news that Campaign for Concordia soared past its original goal of \$250 million and set a new target of raising a total of \$350 million by the university's 50th anniversary next year. In addition, streamlining admissions processes and events like Open House have become increasingly important in drawing students to Concordia. We appreciate the contributions of senators to our success in these areas and to the introduction of our new, shortened academic semesters and fall reading week, beginning this year.

Thank you to all senators — new, returning and departing — for your commitment to university governance and to Concordia



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)

Studies and evaluates the implications of all proposals regarding academic development and priorities, 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 permitting effective debate.

MEETINGS

Members of Senate were convened to seven meetings during the 2022-23 academic year:

October 7, 2022	March 17, 2023
November 11, 2022	April 14, 2023
December 16, 2022	May 19, 2023
February 17, 2023	

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

Academic Freedom Policy: The National Assembly of Québec adopted *An Act Respecting Academic Freedom in the University Sector (Bill 32)* in June 2022. The law required university-level educational institutions to adopt a policy pertaining exclusively to academic freedom, providing for specific parameters as described in the legislation. After consultation with the University community and in conformity with the law, Senate approved an *Academic Freedom Policy* in May 2023.

Policy on the Ethical Use of Animals in Research and Training ([VPRGS-13](#)): revisions and updates were made to this policy as part of periodic update and revision of policies.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN

A requirement for Canada Research Chair and Canada Foundation for Innovation funding, the University is required to submit a strategic research plan, which is a framework for the focused growth of research activities over the next five years. It serves to outline a series of principles and commitments to support and enhance existing and emerging clusters of research and research-creation activities across the University. Concordia University's Strategic Research Plan was presented to Senate and approved on April 14, 2023

DELEGATION OF CURRICULUM APPROVAL TO APC

The Senate is authorized under [Article 71](#) of the By-laws to establish the appropriate committees, boards or other bodies, appoint their membership and delegate any of its responsibilities to them. The mandate of the Academic Programs Committee (APC) includes the study of academic implications of proposals for new program curricula and for modifications to existing curricula and making appropriate recommendations to Senate. It was determined that small changes which include minor curriculum changes, that are not substantive, may be approved by APC. Pursuant to this, Senate delegated the authority to approve minor and non-substantive changes in curricula to APC. All new programs will continue to require final Senate approval.

PROGRAM APPROVALS

Senate approved the following new programs in 2022-23:

Kaié:ri Nikawerà:ke Indigenous Bridging Program: a program which will allow Indigenous students access to post-secondary education and provide opportunities with ongoing support to develop the foundational skills and build a supportive network that will help students achieve success throughout their university studies.

Microprogram in Fundamentals of Digital Filmmaking: a 9-credit undergraduate microprogram to be taught in the summer semester of every academic year, hosted by the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema and aimed to address practical and creative aspects of filmmaking.

Microprogram in Indigenous Land-Based Education: a program resulting from a collaborative partnership between the Chamandy Foundation, Concordia University, the School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA)/First Peoples Studies Program (FPST) and the Ionhntionhhéhkwen Wilderness Skills located in the Kanien'kehá:ka community of Kahnawake. This 12-credit microprogram is housed in the SCPA and will complement the BA in First Peoples Studies. The program will serve as a standalone credential, and students will also be able to transfer credits from the program towards completion of the BA in First Peoples Studies.

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 19, 2023.

GENERAL

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

- Dominique Bérubé presented the Strategic Research Plan
- Danielle Dennie and Pat Riva presented the Research Data Management Strategic Plan
- Amy Fish and Aisha Topsakal presented the highlights of [the Ombuds Office Annual Report](#) and the [Office of Rights and Responsibilities Annual Report](#), respectively
- Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi presented the Canadian Graduate and Professional Survey results to Senate

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Senate for 2022-23 (as of May 1, 2023) 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

Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi

Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Pat Riva

Interim University Librarian

Faculty of Arts and Science

Leslie Barker (PT)

Matthew Barker

Beverly Best

Catherine Bolton

Selvadurai Dayanandan

Mary Esteve

Steven Henle

Moshe Lander

Peter Morden

David Morris

Xavier Ottenwaelder

Mireille Paquet

Rosemary Reilly

Craig Townsend

Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science

Sabine Bergler

Catherine Mulligan

Fuzhan Nasiri

Sofiene Tahar

Radu Zmeureanu

Faculty of Fine Arts

Sally Cooke (PT)

Christopher Moore

Kelly Thompson

Guylaine Vaillancourt

John Molson School of Business

Fabienne Cyrius (PT)

Alexandra Dawson

Medhi Farashahi

Ian Rakita

Professional Librarian

Larry Deck

Undergraduate Students

William Dickson

Marina Ghali

Fawaz Halloum

Asli Issaq

Jordan Jerome-Pitre

Rebecca Kaninda

Stefanie Tsi-Ying Lamothe

Michael Lecchino

Sofia Lipari-Couture

Ahmadou Sakho

Deeva Wazir

Graduate Students

Nagendra Sri Anurag Appala

Samreet Kaur

Thenmozhi Rajan

Nachiketh R. Ravindra

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex-officio

Denis Cossette

Chief Financial Officer

Frederica Jacobs

Secretary-General and General Counsel

Michael Di Grappa

Vice-President, Services and Sustainability

Paul Chesser

Vice-President, Advancement

Philippe Beauregard

Chief Communications Officer

Nadia Hardy

Deputy Provost

Stéphanie de Celles

University Registrar

Isabel Dunnigan

Executive Director

Centre for Continuing Education

Administrative and Support Staff representative

Émilie Martel

Stefana Nita

GCS part-time faculty member

Tom Hughes

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Karan Singh

GOVERNANCE TEAM

Caroline Leamon



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