

Report to the Faculty Association of Concordia University of Edmonton
from the Association's representative on Concordia's Board of Governors
February 25, 2019

Faculty Association colleagues,

As the Association's representative on Concordia's Board of Governors, I have a responsibility to represent the perspectives of our members to the Board, as well as a responsibility to help keep you informed of the Board's activities. Toward that end I would like to begin providing you with more regular updates on the Board's activities. In this update, I will highlight the Board actions which I believe you will be most interested in from the Board's last three meetings, and indicate primary actions anticipated at its next meeting.

At the Board's **May** 2018 meeting the Board approved the GFC's request to be named as joint approving authority (with the Board), and sole procedural authority, on the *New Academic Program Approval Policy*. This means that this policy, and any changes to it, are under the authority of both the GFC and the Board. (The GFC is responsible for academic standards, integrity, and design of programs, while the Board is responsible for funding programs through the institution's budget.) The GFC will be the approver of all procedures under this policy. (In July, in fact, then, the GFC did approve a number of documents specifying procedures under this policy.) The policy has not yet come to the GFC for consideration or ratification. (I have requested that the policy be brought forward to the GFC for this purpose. But I've also asked President Loreman to look at the policy with his working group on policy. The current policy has some weaknesses—including not indicating the role of the GFC in approving new degrees, majors, and concentrations.)

In May the Board also passed 1% "cost of living" increases to the non-academic staff compensation grids. (No such increase was proposed or approved for our (faculty and ASO) grids. Our grids are part of our Collective Agreement with Concordia.)

At its **August** meeting, the Board passed the institution's *Audited Financial Statements* for 2017-18, and *Comprehensive Institutional Plan* for 2018-2021. The latter, as well as the Annual Reports for last year and previous years, are available at <https://concordia.ab.ca/about/who-we-are/governance/institutional-documents/>.

The financial statements for last academic year show institutional revenue for that year as \$32,136,105 (mostly from tuition and provincial grant). This compares to \$31,639,233 and \$29,144,818 the previous two year. Our total enrollment, in "FLE," for these three years was 1659, 1604, and 1434 respectively (going backward in time). This revealed one-year increases of 1.6% in revenue and 3.4% in enrollment (and total increases of 10% in revenue and 16% in

enrollment over two years). Total expenses for last year were \$29,120,123, compared to \$27,519,339 the previous year, for a 5.8% increase. Total employee compensation (for all employees including administrators) was \$21,637,443 last year compared to \$19,827,185 the previous year, for a 9.1% increase. Total expenses for our academic programs (including our salaries and benefits, sessional instructors, supplies, etc., but excluding administrators and their budgets and assistants) was \$11,554,164, up from \$10,701,870, for an increase of 8%. The cost of our programs (apart from administration, student services, plant operations, etc.) was then 40% of our institution's total expenses, up from 39% the previous year. "A total of 5 full time equivalent faculty and instructional positions and 16.5 full time equivalent support staff positions were added during fiscal 2018. Some of the hires were in response to increasing workload attributed to new programs and new student enrollment, others were long standing vacant positions not filled in 2016-17." (from the statements' "Management's Discussion and Analysis")

Also passed at the August meeting were *policies regarding discrimination, harassment, accommodation, and sexual violence*. (These policies, and procedures under them, as well as the New Academic Program Approval Policy and procedures, may be found at <https://concordia.ab.ca/about/who-we-are/governance/policy-and-procedures/policy-manual/>)

At the Board's **November** meeting the primary issue of discussion regarded *a proposal to change our institution's name*. After substantial discussion the Board asked our administration to draft a business case for the proposed change, for consideration at the Board's next meeting.

The Board also passed the Annual Report for 2018-19 (available through the link above).

At its **next meeting** (March 15, 2019), the Board will take up the proposal to change our institution's name. It is possible that it will vote at that meeting to seek a change of our name from 'Concordia University of Edmonton.' Any such change will have to go to the provincial government for approval, since our name is in legislation—the "Concordia University of Edmonton Act."

Also expected on the agenda will be a proposed institutional budget for next year: 2019-20.

Of course the Board has been doing vastly more this. But these are several things I thought you may be most interested in and not already know.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Strand