



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
OPEN SESSION**

January 27, 2020 at 10:00 am room EV 2.776

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: J. Beaudoin (Secretary), G. Carr, P. Wood-Adams (Chair).

Voting members: B. Abu Safieh, O. Ait Mohamed, R. Berger, J. Berzowska, K. Boies, S. Chauhan, M. Debbabi, F. Diamantoudi, G. Dover, E. Lagou, B. Nelson, P. Pawelek, A. Poteete, F. Scala, A. Sinner, A. Soliman, L. Sotelo-Castro, L. Switzer, A. Youssef, C. Wild.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles.

REGRETS

Voting members: F. Darvishi, L. Franzen, Y.-G. Guéhéneuc, D. Secko, J. Zhou.

Non-Voting members: W. Cheaib, S. Gabriele, J. Powlowski.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (A. Poteete, E. Lagou). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of November 11, 2019

Moved and seconded (P. Pawelek, F. Diamantoudi). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Wood-Adams welcomed a new staff member to the School of Graduate Studies: Michael Verwey, Fellowships Development Advisor. Dr Verwey obtained his PhD in

Psychology from Concordia and has several years of experience at McGill University and Brain Canada. Dr Verwey would be in touch with departments in the coming weeks to begin an outreach campaign regarding Tri-Council awards. The Chair had recently returned from the Council of Graduate Schools annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The meeting was very informative and fostered much dialogue; graduate student mental health was a key theme that resonated across plenaries and discussions. A CGS report on the subject was forthcoming.

Dr Wood-Adams had the opportunity to meet the new cohort of Public Scholars who would be taking up office in May. The Public Scholars offers significant added value to the graduate experience at Concordia by presenting their research to the general public, and this year is no exception with students from across varied disciplines.

Council members were reminded of the new policy whereby graduate student supervisors would be provided external examiners' reports prior to the oral examination.

5. President's Remarks

Dr Wood-Adams invited President Carr to address Council members. Honoured and privileged to fulfil the role of President and Vice-Chancellor at a very exciting time in Concordia's history, Dr Carr recognized that graduate studies and research were key factors of consideration at this pivotal moment. Having previously held the positions of Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies, he is particularly familiar with the intricacies of our sector and hopes to continue on a pathway to making Concordia University a research destination institution.

Concordia is fortunate to have high quality installations and to be located in Montreal, a city selected as a top place to study year after year, Dr Carr acknowledged the challenges of offering competitive funding packages and noted that more work is needed on this front. The university has also made great strides in attracting postdoctoral fellows in a rich and vibrant PDF market.

The university's Next Gen Now campaign is focused on improving the student experience; Dr Carr plans to work closely with the Provost and the Deans to redefine institutional priorities. The majority of funds raised for this year's Capital Campaign are earmarked directly for students.

While Concordia juggles difficult financial restraints and student enrolment is on the decline, the institution will present a balanced budget this year and Dr Carr's hopes to harness Concordia's positive buzz and to continue to move forward.

6. Question Period

In response to a question about where enrolment declines lie, Dr Carr stated that they were particularly soft at the undergraduate level. Graduate programs were not entirely

sheltered from this trend which seems in part due to the recent deregularisation of non-thesis programs by the provincial government.

Consent Agenda

7. Faculty Tribunal Pool appointments CSGS 1920 3 D1

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, P. Pawelek). Carried.

Business

8. Proposed Graduate Calendar Text changes

- 8.1 The Program Repertoire CSGS 1920 3 D2

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, F. Diamantoudi). Carried.

Dr Nelson provided an overview of the changes to the Program Repertoire which had not been updated in several years. The revised listing makes room for curriculum innovation with the inclusion of master's programs by accumulation and microprograms.

- 8.2 Master's Thesis Regulation CSGS 1920 3 D3

Moved and seconded (P. Pawelek, F. Diamantoudi). Carried.

Dr Pawelek provided a summary of the changes to the master's thesis regulation for Council members. Aligning ourselves with the majority of other Canadian institutions, master's thesis programs no longer require an oral defence. Master's theses will still undergo a committee evaluation and departments who wish to retain the oral defence are permitted to do so. Departments desirous to avail themselves of this change must submit a curriculum change.

Presentation

9. Rachel Andren, Communications Advisor
Donald Lafrance, Manager, Graduate Recruitment and Outreach
Recruitment and Communications

Ms Andren's and Mr Lafrance's respective presentations entitled 'Mind the Gap: A Communications Guide to Generational Shifts' and 'Why Concordia? And why not?' focused on the overlapping issues of recruiting and communicating with the next generation of potentially university bound youth, in particular Generation Z (roughly born between 1996 and 2010).