

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

November 11, 2019 at 10:00 am room EV 2.776

PRESENT

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

Voting members: A. Akgunduz (for M. Debbabi), R. Berger, K. Boies, S. Chauhan, E. Cheasley Paterson (for J. Berzowska), F. Diamantoudi, G. Dover, L. Franzen, Y.-G. Guéhéneuc, E. Lagou, B. Nelson, P. Pawelek, A. Poteete, F. Scala, D. Secko, A. Sinner, L. Sotelo-Castro, L. Switzer, A. Youssef, C. Wild, J. Zhou.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles.

REGRETS

Voting members: O. Ait Mohamed, A. Soliman.

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 (E. Lagou, F. Scala). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of October 10, 2019.

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, G. Dover). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Wood-Adams had recently returned from the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) in Halifax. In addition to fruitful discussion on the current issues facing graduate education in Canada, Concordia's own Newsha Arezi who is completing her master's degree in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry was announced as the winner of the national Three-Minute Thesis competition.

On October 24 and 25, Concordia hosted the *Journées de la relève* annual symposium put on by the Association francophone pour le savoir (Acfas). In keeping with our goal of making connections with francophone sister institutions, this was the first time that this event was held at Concordia, and resulted in the largest ever participation of our own graduate students.

For the third year, the School organised a top-student event where high-achieving Concordia undergraduates nearing the end of their program were invited to meet with Graduate Program Directors and SGS staff about graduate education at Concordia. The event was very well attended with over 160 participants.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

Business

6. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

Faculty of Fine Arts

GCC report from the Chair of GCC

CSGS 1920 2 D1

Department of Creative Arts Therapies

CSGS 1920 2 D2

New Program: *Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy* (CATS-28)

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, E. Cheasley Paterson). Carried.

Dr Nelson provided a brief introduction to the new program and invited Professor Bonnie Harnden and Dr Guylaine Vaillancourt from the Department of Creative Arts Therapies to give an overview of the proposal.

Dr Harnden explained that the purpose of this certificate is to bridge a gap in existing training in counselling and psychotherapy graduate programs that often only require one course focusing on work with children. The program proposal was generally well received by Council members and gave rise to questions about accreditation and the nature of the intensive summer courses. Dr Harnden elaborated on the program and stated that while the certificate does not lead to any particular accreditation, its purpose would complement training in drama therapy, music therapy, child study, to name a few. She further explained that the summer courses would be taken in succession and added that the department would expect to make necessary adjustments as the program matures. Council members recognized the important needs addressed in the field addressed by this program.

Presentations

7. Andrea Renaud, Coordinator, Administration, University Secretariat
Centraide Testimonial

Ms Renaud addressed Council members to provide insight into the current year's Centraide campaign. She explained that one in four Montrealers lives in poverty and one in seven makes use of Centraide's services. This year's Centraide co-chairs are Philippe Beauregard and Nadia Bhuiyan. Persons interesting in giving to the campaign or increasing their donation were invited to visit Concordia's Centraide website and sign up for a payroll deduction.

8 Paula Wood-Adams, Dean of Graduate Studies
Current State of Graduate Studies at Concordia

Dr Wood-Adams provided a statistical overview of the state of graduate studies based on enrolment data. Concordia's graduate population is one of the largest in the country but our number of PhD students is still low compared to traditional research intensive universities such as McGill, Université de Montréal or Université Laval. It was clear that in order to continue growth at the graduate level, Concordia needs to substantially increase external funding. One measure to assist in this goal is the hiring of a Graduate Fellowships Developer position (one year contract) whose objectives are to foster research growth by providing advice and guidance to students, faculty, and departments, in order to contribute to increasing the quality of fellowship applications submitted by students, and to optimize the success rate in external fellowship competitions.

9. Howard Magonet, Director, Counselling and Psychological Services
Students in Distress

Dr Wood-Adams welcomed Mr Magonet to the Council who provided members with an overview of the Counselling and Psychological Services available at Concordia, on both the Sir George Williams and Loyola Campuses. He also outlined clues to identifying a student in distress and what actions to take when faced with a student in need, including keeping in mind one's own wellbeing.

He also discussed new initiatives being undertaken by Counselling and Development to improve wellness on campus, in particular, the creation of various 'zen dens'.

10. Adjournment of the Open Session moved and seconded (E. Diamantoudi, B. Nelson).

Other Next Meeting: December 16, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies