

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

**October 15, 2020 at 10:00 am via Zoom**

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: J. Beaudoin (Secretary), E. Diamantoudi (Chair).

Voting members: M. Aubin, A. Basyouni, R. Berger, K. Boies, D. Bowen, A. Dolatabadi, G. Dover, M. Frank, Y.-G. Guéhéneuc, S. Han, E. Lagou, L. Letourneau, B. Nelson, P. Pawelek, T. Roy, F. Scala, D. Secko, E. Shihab, A. Sinner, A. Soliman, L. Sotelo-Castro, L. Switzer, MJ Thompson.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles, J. Wiercinski.

REGRETS

Voting members: S. Chauhan, D. Howes.

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair conducted a tour de table.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (A. Soliman, A. Dolatabadi). Carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meetings of January 27 and May 21, 2020

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, A. Soliman). Carried as amended.

## 5. Chair's Remarks

Dr Diamatoudi welcomed Council members to the first meeting of the academic year and informed them of the roles of the Council and of the Powers of Council. She further highlighted particularly important and relevant sections of the Council's mission statement including those on academic leadership, administrative support, and the function of the Council as a hub for inventive thinking as well as its responsibility to enrich the quality of the graduate student and postdoctoral fellow experience.

The chair provided members with a schema of the Council's work to come this academic year. Important projects on the horizon will focus on career outcomes, a redesign of the graduate billing structure, comprehensive examination benchmarking, the standardization of admission letters, GradProSkills and blended learning, and an analysis of the impact of the Horizon Postdoctoral Fellowship program. Of particular interest to graduate students, the revision of the graduate supervision agreement and the development of a graduate supervisor search site are also at the forefront of the School's plans.

Naturally, the current situation with Covid-19 has occupied much of the School's activities over the Summer and continued to do so at the start of the Fall term. Dr Diamantoudi reminded members of our collective achievements during these difficult times such as the establishment of a dedicated FAQ for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and the move of all GradProSkills workshops to an exclusively online format. In light of the additional financial strain placed on students, SGS allocated more awards for Canadian and permanent resident students, revised the Graduate Community Building Fund, and worked tirelessly to develop a payment method for international students.

In conclusion, Dr Diamantoudi recognized the challenges ahead but offered a glimmer of hope with the forthcoming news that international students would be able to enter Canada under certain conditions.

## 6. Question Period

In response to a question to elaborate on the School's plan to examine the current billing structure at the graduate level, Dr Diamantoudi explained that the School would be conducting a comparative analysis of our billing policies as compared to other Quebec universities; the results of which as well as a proposal would be brought to various University bodies for consideration.

A discussion ensued about other points related to the billing structure such as requiring students to register for courses in a term and the fundamental differences between course-based and research programs. Dr Diamantoudi stated that these issues would be part of the scope of the study and eventual proposal.

## **Consent Agenda**

- 7. Steering Committee Members ratification CSGS 2021 1 D1
- 8. Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominees ratification CSGS 2021 1 D2
- 9. GCC Membership modification CSGS 2021 1 D3

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, A. Dolatabadi). Carried.

## **Information**

- 10. Council of the School of Graduate Studies
  - 10.1. Council Membership 2020-2021 CSGS 2021 1 D4
  - 10.2. Powers of Council CSGS 2021 1 D5

The above documents were distributed to Council members for their information.

- 11. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (A. Dolatabadi, F. Scala). Carried.

Next Meeting: November 9, 2020