



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

January 13, 2014 at 10:00 am room H 767

PRESENT

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

Voting members: K. Boies, G. Brown, L. Caminati, F. Crooks, E. Diamantoudi, B. Farnesi, M. Fritsch, M. Mehmet Ali, C. Mulligan, B. Nelson, E. Peltier-Wagner, N. Rantisi, R. Raut, K. Schmitt, S. Snow, V. Venkatesh, S. White.

Non-Voting members: M. Jordan (Recording Secretary), M.-C. Newman.

Guests: S. Antaki, P. Beaugard, A. Murdoch, L. Niro.

REGRETS

Voting members: S. Chauhan, S. Brutus, N. Changzi, G. Dionne, T. Gould, V. Shankar, H. Wasson, R. Wuthrich.

Non-voting members: M. C. Bolton, W. Cheaib, J. Powlowski.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (L. Caminati, V. Venkatesh). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 13, 2014

Moved and seconded (K. Schmitt, B. Nelson). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair announced that GradChat, a new mailing list, was to be launched very soon to allow parties interested in graduate studies to exchange ideas and concerns. Dr Wood-Adams

advised Council members that the awards pre-allocation exercise had been completed and sent out to all Faculties. The Tri-Council has instituted a new procedure for the Master's Scholarship and we have received 288 applications of which just fewer than one half are current Concordia students. Council members were reminded that this being the first year of the newly implemented process, technological and/or procedural pitfalls would likely occur. Dr Wood-Adams announced that a pilot group of four students had been accepted into the UniT program (Certificate in University Teaching); hopefully, next year will see a full cohort of 15 students.

5. Question Period

A Council member asked if GradChat was geared solely towards Graduate Program Assistants and if Graduate Program Directors would also be included. GPDs are welcome to join the mailing list but it is recommended that they submit questions via their GPAs in order to reduce their own email volume.

Consent Agenda

6. Proposed Graduate Curriculum Changes

Faculty of Fine Arts

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| 6.1 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC | CSGS 1314 4 D1 |
| 6.2 | Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (CINE-14) | CSGS 1314 4 D2 |
| 6.3 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC | CSGS 1314 4 D3 |
| 6.4 | Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (CINE-15) | CSGS 1314 4 D4 |

Moved and seconded (K. Schmitt, C. Mulligan). Carried.

Business

7. Calendar change: Qualifying Programs CSGS 1314 4 D5

Dr Nelson summarized the change and its intent. He stated that the purpose of this change is twofold; on one hand students would be required to complete their concurrent Qualifying Program within the first three terms of their program. Currently a number of students are requesting a waiver for their concurrent QP at the point of graduation. The change is not intended to be punitive but to motivate students to complete their QP early on in their program. Secondly, the changes are meant to encourage departments to consider the function and role of the Qualifying Program.

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, V. Venkatesh). Carried.

Presentation

8. Academic Sector, Website Strategies
S. Antaki, Executive Director, University Communication Services
P. Beauregard, Chief Communications Officer

A. Murdoch, Writer/Editor, University Communication Services
L. Niro, Director, Web Communications

Dr Wood-Adams welcomed Philippe Beauregard, Sami Antaki, Andy Murdoch and Lucy Niro to provide an overview of the new Web Content Management System. The new website is designed to create a sense of consistency across faculty, department and other sub-sites all the while allowing for a degree of customization and tailoring at the 'page' level. This move towards a centralized WCMS is occurring at universities across the country and the continent. A new landing page for graduate students, a first, was created. Council members were asked to send comments and suggestions by using the feedback button on the new site. Focus groups will be hosted after the launch date to reach out to the community. Persons interested in participating in testing were asked to contact webcoord@concordia.ca.

9. Webster Library Renovation Project
G. Beaudry, Interim University Librarian

Dr Wood-Adams also welcomed a presentation on the Webster Library Renovation Project by Guylaine Beaudry. Dr Beaudry advised Council that the official announcement of the project is to take place next term and reiterated that libraries are at the centre of the academic life. Our library must respond to evolving needs by providing a shift from print to digital culture, while continuing to promote discourse and critical thinking. Dr Beaudry noted that our current space is based largely on the mid-19th century library model. Our next library must be a space for dynamic and collaborative learning that responds to the modern reality of technology. The student population has grown exponentially since the library's opening some 21 years ago. As an example, Dr Beaudry noted that the Webster Library receives 1.8 million visitors per year while the Grande bibliothèque sees 2.6 million. The library has received near daily comments on the lack of space for study and working from students. The Grey Nuns' Chapel will be converted to a study hall thereby bolstering study space significantly. Dr Beaudry provided Council members with a glimpse of the finished renovation via a slideshow that will provide a 27 percent increase in student space. Of particular interest to graduate students is the renovated third floor seminar room (equipped with the latest communication technology) that will be available for thesis defences. The fifth floor will also house 88 spaces for the exclusive use of graduate students. Drs Beaudry and Wood-Adams will be meeting over the next weeks to discuss the needs of graduate students in greater detail.

Other Next Meeting: Feb 10, 2014, from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon H 767

Adjournment

Moved and seconded (V. Venkatesh, K. Schmitt). Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies