



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

**March 10, 2014 at 10:00 am room H 763**

PRESENT

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

Voting members: K. Boies, G. Brown, L. Caminati, S. Chauhan, F. Crooks, G. Dionne, B. Farnesi, M. Fritsch, C. Mulligan, B. Nelson, E. Peltier-Wagner, N. Rantisi, K. Riad, K. Schmitt, S. Snow, V. Venkatesh, H. Wasson, S. White, R. Wuthrich.

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

Guests: E. Hummel.

REGRETS

Voting members: S. Brutus, E. Diamantoudi, T. Gould, M. Mehmet Ali, R. Raut, V. Shankar.

Non-voting members: W. Cheaib.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (V. Venkatesh, G. Brown). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 10, 2014

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

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair informed Council members that during the week prior, the Chief Financial Officer and the Senate Finance Committee allocated a new funding envelope to support newly admitted Master's students from other provinces. With a view to expediting offers to potential students, the School allocated these funds directly to departments who, over

the course of the past three years, had a history of significant applications from out-of-province students to their Master's programs. The Dean brought to the attention of Council a concern that admissions decisions are on the downturn as compared to this time last year. She informed Council that delays in scanning documents have been addressed and documents should appear in SIMS within a few days.

Dr Wood-Adams announced that, for the first time in several years, Concordia would be hosting the next meeting of the *Association des doyens des études supérieures du Québec* (ADÉSAQ) on May 28. ADÉSAQ focuses on issues related to graduate education specific to Québec. The Chair shared with Council members that the federal and provincial governments are in the process of requiring that all postdoctoral fellows be treated as employees rather than as students. It is likely that Concordia will receive a notice to that effect in the near future. Our Associate Dean and Postdoctoral Officer are currently reviewing our postdoctoral policy and guidelines to make the necessary revisions that will be brought to Council(s) and Senate in due course. A significant implication of a change in status would be the payment of benefits.

Following the successes of the GradProSkills program, a recommendation was made to integrate it permanently into the School of Graduate Studies. This had been positively received at various university committees; GradProSkills is likely to undergo structural changes when merged with the School.

The Dean announced that she and others would be meeting with a delegation from the Saudi Arabian government about its program to fund international students. While the program traditionally supports student studying the sciences and engineering, the delegation has shown openness to the humanities as well. Following a question from a Council member, the Chair agreed to ask the delegation members if both men and women are eligible for this program.

The School will also be organising its inaugural 'Concordia Summer Research Institute (CSRI)'. This year's theme is 'The Digital Term'. Final year undergraduate and master's students from across Canada will be invited to an all expenses paid (less travel) weeklong stay in Montréal. Showcasing our interdisciplinarity, Hexagram, Perform, and the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling are partnering to offer this unique experience to students. The week's agenda also includes social events.

As a follow-up to a previous meeting's presentation by Dr Guylaine Beaudry, the School will also be working with the Library to organise graduate student focus groups on the upcoming Webster Library renovation project.

## 5. Question Period

A Council member asked if a definition of the 'research master's' currently exists at Concordia; the Chair responded that the master's programs leading to PhDs qualify. When asked for additional details on the CSRI, the Dean further explained that lodging, meals and activities will be free-of-charge to participants and the desire is to germinate dialogue inside and outside of academia. Our experience has shown that students who have applied to Concordia are more likely to choose us if they visit our campuses in person.

## Consent Agenda

### 6. Proposed Graduate Curriculum Changes

#### Faculty of Arts and Science

- |     |                                   |                |
|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 6.1 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC  | CSGS 1314 6 D1 |
| 6.2 | Department of Economics (ECON-25) | CSGS 1314 6 D2 |

#### Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

- |     |   |                |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 6.3 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC                            | CSGS 1314 6 D3 |
| 6.4 | Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ELEC-65) | CSGS 1314 6 D4 |

#### Faculty of Fine Arts

- |     |                                    |                |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 6.5 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC   | CSGS 1314 6 D5 |
| 6.6 | Department of Studio Arts (ARTG-5) | CSGS 1314 6 D6 |

#### John Molson School of Business

- |      |                                   |                 |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 6.7  | GCC report from the Chair of GCC  | CSGS 1314 6 D7  |
| 6.8  | Business Administration (ADMI-8)  | CSGS 1314 6 D8  |
| 6.9  | GCC report from the Chair of GCC  | CSGS 1314 6 D9  |
| 6.10 | Department of Accountancy (CMA-9) | CSGS 1314 6 D10 |

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

## Presentations

### 7. Luca Caminati, Associate Dean, Recruitment and Awards

Dr Caminati engaged Council members in a brainstorming style session on recruitment best practices. He offered examples of seemingly small events that bring results from a recruitment perspective, for example, a private event for potential PhD students at the President's house, departmental open houses co-organised by current graduate students, more good news stories about students and social events that promote a sense of community. Dr Caminati reminded members that literature shows that each contact with potential students is important and encouraged them to work with their colleagues to personalize their communication with applicants. Council members requested that a fact sheet about Montreal's advantages such as cost of living and cultural events be easily accessible on our website. While this information is available currently, it was agreed that it should be put on the forefront. Dr Caminati advised Council members that an online tool where faculty members can post openings for graduate students is under development. Several ideas to foster greater faculty member involvement in recruitment were discussed including developing faculty-tailored pointers, encouraging faculty members to keep their CVs and personal pages up-to-date, and access to funding averages available to potential students over the past three years.

8. Ellie Hummel, University Chaplain  
*Exploring Multi-Faith Chaplaincy*

Rev. Hummel provided Council members with an overview of the services that Multi-Faith Chaplaincy offers including spiritual guidance for protestant and Roman Catholic Christian faiths, as well as Baha'i, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist faiths thanks to a large network of associate chaplains. Chaplaincy offers students meeting spaces and puts on a number of social activities such as yoga courses, meditation, 'Pizza and Parsha', 'Mother Hubbard's Cupboard', etc. Chaplaincy also coordinates the Student emergency and food fund (which provides needy students with over \$50K in assistance per year) along with related fundraising activities.

### **Information**

9. Spring 2014 convocation non-academic medals and award
- The Dean of Students Medal
  - The Stanley G. French Medal
  - The First Graduating Class Award

The criteria for nominations were circulated to members with a request that they nominate deserving students.

**Other**            Next Meeting: May 15, 2014, from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, room to be confirmed

### **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan  
Recording Secretary  
Council of the School of Graduate Studies