

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

March 7, 2016 at 10:00 am room H-763

PRESENT

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

Voting members: A. Aghdam, S. Bhagwati, K. Boies, S. Chauhan, A.-M. Croteau, M. Debbadi, E. Diamantoudi, B. Freiwald, M. Mehmet Ali, B. Nelson, J. Neves, A. Piekny, K. Riad, K. Sawchuk, K. Schmitt, A. Sebak, R. Waldie.

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

Guests: P. Rigby.

REGRETS

Voting members: A. Dolatabadi, T. Gould, M. Kanji, E. Peltier-Wagner, V. Peters, R. Raut, A. Whitelaw, S. Zahabi.

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of November 30, 2015

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, M. Debbabi). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Wood-Adams announced that the School of Graduate Studies would be holding a book launch for Dr Lorrie Blair's piece of work entitled *Writing a Thesis or Dissertation* on March 10. Dr Wood-Adams lauded Dr Blair's efforts and dedication to graduate education, particularly because her book is not relevant to her research area and is purely directed towards helping graduate students.

The Chair reminded Council members that this year's annual Three-Minute Thesis competition would be taking place on March 16; Concordia's winner would be going forward to the regional competition and possibly on to the national competition at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies' conference in St. John's, Newfoundland in the October.

Dr Wood-Adams further advised members that this year's 3rd annual Postdoctoral Fellows Day, a collaborative effort by Concordia, McGill University, l'Université de Montréal and l'Institut national de la recherche scientifique, would be held on March 21. The event consists of a poster presentation and cocktail, and is an excellent networking opportunity for postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and faculty members.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

Consent Agenda

6. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

Faculty of Arts and Science

6.1	GCC report from the Chair of GCC	CSGS 1516 4 D1
6.2	Department of Applied Human Sciences (AHSC-22)	CSGS 1516 4 D2
6.3	GCC report from the Chair of GCC	CSGS 1516 4 D3
6.4	Department of Physics (PHYS-20)	CSGS 1516 4 D4

7. Thesis Raking Form and Instructions to Thesis Committee Chairs CSGS 1516 4 D5

8. Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominations CSGS 1516 4 D6

Moved and seconded (K. Schmitt, E. Diamantoudi). Carried.

Business

9. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

- 9.1 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CS GS 1516 4 D7
9.2 Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering CS GS 1516 4 D8
New Program: *PhD in Software Engineering* (COMP-80)

Dr Nelson requested speaking privileges for Dr Peter Rigby of the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering. Dr Nelson explained to Council that this proposal was currently being considered by the *Bureau de la coopération interuniversitaire* as a case for a modulated review, i.e. a process not requiring a full analysis by the Ministry. In the case where a modulated review is approved, the program need only be approved by Senate before implementation. Dr Rigby discussed the importance of this area of study and the imperative need of a PhD program. This PhD would be the first of kind in Quebec and only the second in Canada. He further detailed the different natures of computer science and software engineering in support of the creation of a stand alone PhD in the latter.

Moved and seconded (A. Aghdam, K. Schmitt). Carried.

10. Revised Guidelines for Postdoctoral Fellows CS GS 1516 4 D9
Policy on Postdoctoral Fellows (VPRGS-4) CS GS 1516 4 D10

Dr Wood-Adams began by explaining the historical reasons behind the updates to the Policy on Postdoctoral Fellows, particularly the legal case involving a Université de Laval postdoctoral fellow who requested parental leave. The case went before the provincial labour board who decided that the postdoctoral fellow was an ‘employee’. Consequently, there has been a movement across the province towards the recognition of postdocs as employees. Dr Wood-Adams noted that this has been the case in the rest of Canada for several years now. In summary, the principal changes to the policy are the establishment of a minimum salary and the re-classification of certain postdoctoral fellows as employees thereby requiring the payment of benefits. Dr Wood-Adams explained that she and Ms Cynthia Raso, Postdoctoral Studies and Graduate Enrolment officer, had presented the revised policy to the Faculty councils and had taken into consideration their comments/suggestions. The policy had already been vetted by Legal Council. Following a question from a Council member, the Chair agreed that the implementation of an electronic signature process would improve efficiency. Dr Wood-Adams welcomed the suggestion of another Council member to include postdoctoral fellows in Explore Concordia. She agreed to discuss these matters with the responsible parties.

Information

11. Call for Nominations: Spring 2016 Convocation CS GS 1516 4 D11
Non-Academic Medals and Awards

Dr Wood-Adams urged Council members to consider nominating deserving graduate students for the Convocation Medals and Awards.

Other Next Meeting: April 4, 2016 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in EV 2.184

12. Adjournment of the Open Session moved and seconded (B. Nelson, A. Aghdam).

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