

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

**Monday, February 11, 2019 at 10:00 am room LB 362**

PRESENT

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

Voting members: A. Aghdam, R. Berger, K. Boies, M. Debbabi, F. Diamantoudi, D. Dickson, A. Hooshir, P. Joyce, A. Molaei, B. Nelson, P. Pawelek, A. Poteete, F. Scala, A. Soliman, L. Sotelo-Castro, C. Wild.

Non-Voting members: S. Gabriele, S. Sarik.

REGRETS

Voting members: O. Ait Mohamed, J. Berzowska, S. Chauhan, R. Ghouchani, B. Jaumard, K. Thompson, G. Vaillancourt, M. Watson.

Non-Voting members: J. Beaudoin, 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 (A. Poteete, E. Diamantoudi). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of October 4, 2018

Moved and seconded (A. Aghdam, E. Diamantoudi). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Wood-Adams welcomed Francesca Scala, the new Associate Dean, Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Science. She also saluted Dr Aghdam's tenure as Associate Dean,

Student Affairs and Postdoctoral Studies in the School of Graduate Studies which is coming to an end after three years of dedicated service. On the same token, she welcomed Dr Peter Pawelek, current Graduate Program Director in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, as the new incoming Associate Dean, Student Affairs and Postdoctoral Studies beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

The Chair announced that, in an effort to begin to address the lack of funding at the PhD level, the Concordia University Graduate Fellowship for doctoral students will now be for a duration of four years, increased from three years. She also informed the membership that a new envelope to bolster indigenous student representation and participation in graduate studies will become available.

Dr Wood-Adams solicited Council members for ideas for pertinent topics for future presentations.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

**Consent Agenda**

6. Faculty Tribunal Pool ratification

CSGS 1819 2 D1

Moved and seconded (C. Wild, M. Debbabi). Carried.

**Presentations**

7. Brad Nelson, Associate Dean, Academic Programs and Development

*TRaCE – Career Outcomes*

Dr Wood-Adams invited Dr Nelson to address Council on the TRaCE project, a pan-Canadian SSHRC-funded activity spearheaded by Dr Paul Yachnin of McGill University.

The T(rack) R(eport) and C(onnect) E(xchange) Pilot Project was a one-year project that tracked 2,800 PhD graduates in the humanities from 24 Canadian universities. This project was a joint effort among collaborating universities, the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, and the Jackman Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto. It was headquartered at the Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas (IPLAI) at McGill University. The project interviewed over 300 participants.

The purpose of TRaCE was to determine career pathways of students with terminal degrees in the humanities. It also focused on the length of time students took to achieve their career goals and attempted to create a network of humanities PhD scholars.

Dr Nelson worked with Mr Donald Lafrance, the School of Graduate Studies' Graduate Enrolment Analyst, and Ms Frederica Martin, the SGS Manager of Academic Programs and Development to compare the data on our own PhDs with that from TRaCE, and similar

independent studies conducted by the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia. Dr Nelson's report also incorporated data from departments in the social sciences who chose to participate. The sciences and engineering were not included in this initial study but there are plans to proceed with one in the future.

Council members were interested in the results of the data collection and asked if there was consideration of the students' career aspirations compared with career goal achievement. Dr Nelson explained that there are plans to capture this information in the future through, for example, an exit survey. The question of correlations between funding and the achievement of career goals was also raised. Council members generally agreed that the overall positive results of the report were encouraging from a recruitment point of view as well as for students currently in program.

Dr Wood-Adams added that *Association des doyens des études supérieures au Québec* is working on a related analysis project of PhD career outcomes which should provide similar data. Dr Sandra Gabriele further noted that the national Future Skills Centre is looking to address concerns related to the labour market and is tackling the issue of a lack of humanists and social scientists in the workforce, among others.

**Other**            Next Meeting: March 25, 2019 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in LB 362

8.            Adjournment of the Open Session moved and seconded (C. Wild, A. Poteete).

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