



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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

October 4, 2018 at 10:00 am room EV 2.776

PRESENT

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

Voting members: A. Aghdam, O. Ait Mohamed, J. Berzowska, R. Berger, K. Boies, M. Debbabi, F. Diamantoudi, D. Dickson, A. Hooshir, B. Jaumard, P. Joyce, A. Molaei, B. Nelson, P. Pawelek, L. Sotelo-Castro, K. Thompson.

Non-Voting members: J. Powlowski, S. Sarik.

REGRETS

Voting members: S. Chauhan, R. Ghouhani, A. Poteete, A. Soliman, G. Vaillancourt, M. Watson, C. Wild.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order immediately following the Closed Session.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Dr Wood-Adams welcomed Council members to the first meeting of the academic year and led an introductory tour de table.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of May 18, 2018

A typographical error was noted. Also, under item 6.7, the length of appointment for Graduate Curriculum Committee members was corrected to read "three years". Moved and seconded (A. Aghdam, J. Berzowska). Carried.

5. Chair's Remarks

5.1 *School of Graduate Studies Annual Report, August 2018*

Dr Wood-Adams provided Council members with a brief overview of the report and drew their attention to key details, notably the success of students, and our continued and steady growth in enrolments especially over the last three years, making us one of the largest grad schools in Canada. In turn, the calibre of students seeking admission in graduate programs at Concordia has also improved.

GradProSkills again has made strides in professional development for graduate students, adding new components year after year; total and unique enrolments in workshops increased last year. In the Student Affairs unit, we have noted a decrease in service requests which may be attributed to more frequent and topical outreach with GPDs and GPAs.

The report will be circulated to members.

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

Consent Agenda

7. Election/Ratification

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 7.1 | Steering Committee members | CSGS 1819 1 D1 |
| 7.2 | Faculty Tribunal Pool nominees | CSGS 1819 1 D2 |

Moved and seconded (B. Jaumard, F. Diamantoudi). Carried.

Business

8. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

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| 8.1 | Transfer Credits | CSGS 1819 1 D3 |
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Following a request from JMSB, this item was withdrawn and will return to Council at a later date. Dr Aghdam was to meet with key players for a discussion on the matter.

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| 8.2 | Academic Success & Integrity Module (ASIM) | CSGS 1819 1 D4 |
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Dr Aghdam gave a brief overview of the changes and explained that there had been a desire to align the deadline to complete the ASIM module with an existing one (DNE). Dr Wood-Adams explained, for the benefit of new Council members, that the online ASIM module was created several years back at the request of the Graduate Students Association as they felt students were not adequately versed on academic misconduct. Using the DNE deadline is

logical and more efficient. The School will work on extracting a copy of the module or creating a dummy login to allow members to see the it from the test takers perspective.

Moved and seconded (A. Aghdam, J. Berzowska). Carried.

Presentations

9. Christophe Guy, Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies CSGS 1819 1 D5
Strategic Research Plan 2018-2023

Dr Powlowski, on behalf of Dr Guy, addressed Council members and explained that research institutions are required to complete a Strategic Research Plan (SRP) by the Canada Research Chair Program. The plan can be up to ten pages in length with a five page summary document. The draft SRP builds on the former plan and was developed taking into consideration the replies from the survey sent out to researchers by the VPRGS. The purpose of the plan is to provide direction and guiding principles to the research community at Concordia.

A Council member asked if applications for grants should be formulated using the current SRP or this new draft. While Dr Powlowski expects that the plan will be approved in December, he advised researchers to continue using the framework of the current plan until the new one is approved. Dr Wood-Adams remarked that once the new SRP is approved, our Governor General Gold Medal categories will also need to be updated.

There was some discussion about difficulties encountered by researchers in interdisciplinary fields. Dr Wood-Adams acknowledged that while this is a problem across all disciplines, it is more apparent in some areas than others and that there is room for improvement. Dr Powlowski reminded Council that one of the responsibilities of the Office of the VPRGS is to foster interdisciplinarity and create opportunities where researchers can come together, and that while there are road blocks, much progress has been made and he expects that each new interdisciplinary research initiative will serve to break down these barriers further.

Particular pragmatic issues in INDI and the PhD in the Humanities programs were raised, Dr Wood-Adams pledged follow-up to inform the discussion for a future item at Council.

Information

10. Council of the School of Graduate Studies
- 10.1 Council Membership 2018-2019 CSGS 1819 1 D6
10.2 Powers of Council CSGS 1819 1 D7
11. Call for Honorary Degree nominations CSGS 1819 1 D8

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

12. Process change: Thesis Examiners' reports and sharing

12.1 Letter to internal examiners

CSGS 1819 1 D9

12.2 Letter to external examiners

CSGS 1819 1 D10

Dr Aghdam provided of an overview of the reasoning behind the changes to the letters to internal and external examiners who will now be advised that their comments may be made available to the student before the defence or, in the case of negative comments, after the defence.

Some Council members suggested that comments, regardless of nature, be made available to the student and supervisor before the defence. In their experience, this is the usual practice at other institutions. Dr Wood-Adams mentioned that this issue was raised at the steering committee and she recognized the necessity to discuss this issue further, and will report back to Council at a later date.

Other Next Meeting: November 12, 2018 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in LB 362

13. Adjournment of the Open Session moved and seconded (B. Nelson, F. Diamantoudi).

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