



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

October 1, 2012 at 10:00 am room H-769

PRESENT

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

Voting members: A. Awasthi, F. Crooks, A.-M. Croteau, E. Diamantoudi, G. Dionne, M. Fritsch, B. Ibrahim, M. Mehmet Ali, B. Nelson, N. Rantisi, G. Saad, C. Skinner, S. Snow, S. Ullah, V. Venkatesh, H. Wasson, R. Zmeureanu.

Non-Voting members: W. Cheaib, O. Dyens, S. Fontaine, M. Jordan (Recording Secretary).

Guests: V. Bruce, F. Martin.

REGRETS

Voting members: F. Al-Saqqar, A. Atia, G. Brown, E. Manning, B. Pervez, R. Saade, B. Vorn, R. Wuthrich.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Open Session was called to order at 10:20, immediately following the Closed Session.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (C. Skinner, V. Venkatesh). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of May 14, 2012

Moved and seconded (C. Skinner, B. Nelson). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed Council members to the first meeting of the academic year and explained that her appointment as Interim Dean is expected to last through to the end of the year during which time a search will be conducted to find a permanent Dean of Graduate Studies. Dr Wood-Adams thanked President Alan Shepard for attending Council and invited him to say a few words. Dr Shepard began by congratulating Concordia's graduate studies community for taking

on the endeavour of bolstering graduate education at the university, and was pleased to note Concordia's very robust graduate enrolments. Dr Shepard fielded questions from Council members on subjects such as the balance between teaching and research, and the development of competitive awards packages for incoming students, amongst others. Dr Shepard reminded Council that other similar institutions have experienced these same growing pains and that he believes that graduate education can and does achieve an effective harmony between teaching and research, and that there is no dichotomy. In brief, Dr Shepard encouraged the community to foster its aspirations to do more, to overcome self-imposed boundaries and to not fear change. Dr Wood-Adams echoed the President's comments and agreed that a good teaching/research synergy is desirable and attainable. Dr Wood-Adams then focused her remarks towards Council members, thanking them for their support during numerous staffing changes at the School of Graduate Studies and asserted that the School was on track for a smooth year. The Chair also invited members to bring forward suggestions to improve processes in place and to present ideas for interesting discussion topics at future meetings. Dr Wood-Adams reminded Council of our recent successes with the Banting and Vanier competitions, of the School's entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Sauvé Foundation, and of a number of new programs to come online including a Master of Design, a PhD in Information and Systems Engineering and a PhD in Industrial Engineering.

5. Question Period

A member asked what measures the School plans to undertake to improve recruitment of quality graduate students. Dr Wood-Adams replied that Dr Anne-Marie Croteau would be presenting on this topic at a future Council meeting.

Presentation

6. *Graduate Degree-level Expectations*; Dr Vivek Venkatesh, Associate Dean, Academic Programs and Development

Dr Vivek Venkatesh presented Council members with an overview of the concept of degree level expectations (DLEs). Dr Venkatesh discussed the benefits of establishing degree level expectations in curriculum and new program development. He also noted the increased awareness around DLEs in other academic circles outside Québec and expects them to become increasingly important in our province. Following his presentation, Dr Venkatesh accepted questions from Council members. The full presentation is available at <http://graduatestudies.concordia.ca/graduateprogramdirectors/presentationsandworkshops/>

Information

7. Council of the School of Graduate Studies

7.1 Council Membership 2012-13

CSGS 1213 1 D1

7.2 Powers of Council

CSGS 1213 2 D2

As per custom, documents explaining the roles and responsibilities of the Council and its sub-committees were distributed to all members for information.

Election

8. Steering Committee members

Dr Wood-Adams explained the role of the Steering Committee in that it approves the agenda and documents for the upcoming Council meeting. The Chair also informed Council members that the Steering Committee would now be composed of members elected by Council rather than Associate Deans from the Faculties, as has been the de facto case in the recent past. The purpose of this change is to bring new voices and ideas to the table, and to create a Steering Committee balanced between administrators and faculty members. The election was held by secret ballot; votes were to be tabulated after the meeting. Those elected would receive notification from the School of Graduate Studies.

9. Ratification of Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominees

CSGS 1213 1 D3

It was moved and seconded (C. Skinner, A.-M. Croteau) to ratify the list of proposed members to the Faculty Tribunal Pool, and the vote passed unopposed. The names will be forwarded to Senate for final approval. Beforehand, Dr Wood-Adams provided a brief summary of the expectations of committee members.

Other - Next Meeting: October 29, 2012 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, H-769

10. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded (A.-M. Croteau, H. Wasson) to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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