

**REVISED MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
OPEN SESSION**

December 15 at 10:00 am room H-767

PRESENT

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

Voting members: A. Arvanitogiannis, S. Brutus, J.-C. Bustros, L. Caminati, S. Chauhan, B. Farnesi, T. Gould, W. Khreich, M. Kanji, C. Mulligan, B. Nelson, E. Peltier-Wagner, A. Piekny, R. Raut, K. Riad, K. Sawchuk, A. Sebak, S. Snow, A. Whitelaw.

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

Guests: P. Joyce.

REGRETS

Voting members: K. Boies, E. Diamantoudi, A. Dolatabadi, M. Khan, M. Mehmet Ali, V. Venkatesh.

Non-voting members: 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 (L. Caminati, K. Riad). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of October 20, 2014.

Moved and seconded (L. Caminati, K. Riad). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted the importance of the next months in recruitment and admission of graduate students. She recognized that there will be challenges and stressful moments with the implementation of the new Student Information System. Dr Wood-Adams attended a workshop for PhD students in Beijing earlier in the month. Schools from Canada and

Europe were present to meet with Chinese students eligible for funding through the China Scholarship Council program. The candidates represent the top percentile and were impressive academically and possessed remarkable skills in English. While other Canadian universities in attendance seemed to see primarily engineering students, she was surprised by the number of humanities and social science profiles. As a first, she made some conditional on site acceptances of students (subject to departmental approval and the securing of a supervisor). Upon her return certain student dossiers were forwarded to relevant graduate programs for consideration.

In later October, Dr Wood-Adams attended the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) in St. John's, Newfoundland, whose theme was the future of the PhD in the humanities in Canada. She also attended the annual meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), an American counterpart organisation, in Washington, DC. The organisation has a great deal of resources and conducts significant research related to graduate studies. While it is not always relevant to the Canadian landscape, it is nonetheless very useful.

Dr Wood-Adams ran several focus groups with graduate students and GPDs which were organised to study the results of the 2013 *Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey* (CGPSS). A report with recommendations is forthcoming.

On November 14, the School hosted a talk by Dr Paul Yachnin, Tomlinson Professor of Shakespeare Studies and Director of the Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas at McGill University. He was part of team that wrote a white paper on the future of the PhD in the humanities. The talk led to good discussion with graduate students and faculty members.

This Fall also saw the first ever INDI alumni event which provides current INDI students with excellent mentorship and outreach opportunities.

Dr Wood-Adams sits on the Board of Directors of the Jeanne Sauvé Foundation created by the Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé as her legacy to the youth of the world. Her intention was to create an incubator for leadership through a permanent forum that would offer exceptional young people the opportunity to come together, meet and discuss the major global issues of the day. Concordia joins McGill as the second academic participant on the Foundation's Board. The Foundation sponsors a residential program to 12 international fellows. The fellows may take Concordia courses and make use of workshops offered by GradProSkills. The Chair asked Council members to help make them feel welcome during their stay in Montreal. This year Céline Galipeau gave the Jeanne Sauvé address entitled *Democracy in the Balance: Journalism in Canada and around the World*.

5. Question Period

In response to a question about the timing of the implementation of the new SIS, Ms Joanne Beaudoin, a member of the SIS Steering Committee, stated that much thought was given to the launch date and that while there is no ideal moment to make this transition, it was decided that January after the DNE deadline would likely cause the least amount of disruption to the community.

A Council member thanked the Chair for forwarding excellent potential doctoral candidates from China to his program and inquired about the number of offers were extended to students. Dr Wood-Adams explained that, as this was our first experience in on site admissions, she proceeded cautiously with a handful. If graduate programs are happy with the outcome, she intends to take a more aggressive approach in the future. The Chair also summarized the key points of the question of the PhD in the humanities in that PhD candidates need to appreciate the lack of available academic positions and should be aware of other employment possibilities in industry, government, etc. The Chair reminded Council that a report of her findings subsequent to the focus groups on the Graduate Student Experience is forthcoming.

Consent Agenda

6. Proposed Graduate Curriculum Changes

Faculty of Arts and Science

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 6.1 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC | CSGS 1415 3 D1 |
| 6.2 | Department of Physics (PHYS-15) | CSGS 1415 3 D2 |

John Molson School of Business

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------------|
| 6.3 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC | CSGS 1415 3 D3 |
| 6.4 | Goodman Institute of Investment Management (GIIM-14) | CSGS 1415 3 D4 |

Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 6.5 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC | CSGS 1415 3 D5 |
| 6.6 | Centre for Engineering in Society (CES-7) | CSGS 1415 3 D6 |

(B. Nelson, K. Riad). Carried.

Business

7. Proposed Graduate Curriculum and Calendar Changes

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 7.1 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC | CSGS 1415 3 D7 |
| 7.2 | Department of Education (EDUC-56) | CSGS 1415 3 D8 |

Dr Brad Nelson, speaking on behalf of Dr Vivek Venkatesh, explained to Council that the purpose in removing items CSGS 1415 3 D7 and D8 from the Consent Agenda was to show a good example of a program streamlined and improved by moving towards the national average in terms of the number of required courses while maintaining academic rigour.

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, L. Caminati). Carried.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| 7.3 | Change to time limits for master's degrees | CSGS 1415 3 D9 |
| | Survey of times to completion | CSGS 1415 3 D9a |

Dr Nelson gave an overview of discussions with Graduate Program Directors regarding time limits for master's programs, more specifically the desire to bring them in line with other Canadian institutions. Approximately one half of universities surveyed have a time limit of three years at the master's level. He reminded members with the new Student Information System, GPDs will now approve the first three Time Limit Extension (TLE) at the program level. Subsequent TLE requests will continue to come to the School of Graduate Studies for processing. Dr Wood-Adams added that we are below the national average in terms of times to completion. She further noted that while we are below the national average for funding available to graduate students, our students are statistically below the national average with regard to debt load. After further discussion amongst members, it was decided that the first sentence of the Calendar entry would be revised to read "The expected time to completion for a master's/magisteriate degree for full-time students is 6 terms (2 years)."

Moved and seconded (K. Riad, A. Piekny). Carried as amended.

Information

9. Thesis Committee – addendum to Thesis Preparation Guidelines CS GS 1415 3 D10

Dr Nelson explained to Council that the added paragraph to the restructuring of the Examination Committee entry whereby students may request a change in supervisor had been inadvertently deleted from a previous Calendar.

Other Next Meeting: February 9, 2015 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in H-767

Adjournment

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, L. Caminati). Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies