



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

February 9, 2015 at 10:00 am room H-767

PRESENT

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

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

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

Guests: S. Betton.

REGRETS

Non-voting members: W. Cheaib, J. Powlowski.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Item 8 was moved to follow item 3; item 9 was postponed. Moved and seconded (L. Caminati, V. Venkatesh). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of December 15, 2014.

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

4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Wood-Adams kept her remarks brief due to the presentation and discussion. She informed Council that the Academic Integrity Success Module (AISM) had been presented to various

faculty councils and that it would be presented at the Council of the School of Graduate Studies in the future. A Graduate Program Directors' lunch was scheduled for Wednesday, February 11 on the AISM with a presentation by Guylaine Beaudry, University Librarian. While the launch of the SIS had created initial challenges, the situation seemed to normalize somewhat. Dr Wood-Adams invited members to join GradChat, a discussion listserve primarily intended for Graduate Program Assistants, to keep abreast of SIS and other developments related specifically to graduate studies. On January 30, the School of Graduate Studies held the MyProject180 competition where students in non-thesis programs or those at the beginning their thesis could present their research. The format of the competition mirrored that of the 3MT. The event was a success with presentations from 12 students and was emcee'd by Council member and INDI graduate student, Keroles Riad. Also in January, Dr Wood-Adams participated on a panel at the Women's Summit, an event that showcased women faculty leaders and mentors at Concordia. The Chair encouraged CSGS members to take part in the Idea Cafés that are part of the Strategic Directions' work as a way to directly impact the process.

5. Question Period

A Council member asked if the Strategic Directions Speakers' Series would be filmed, Dr Wood-Adams stated that this was discussed at planning committees but it was decided instead to film interviews with each of the speakers which would be available for viewing online. Summaries of the presentations would also be available.

Consent Agenda

6. Proposed Graduate Curriculum Changes

Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 6.1 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC | CSGS 1415 4 D1 |
| 6.2 | Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ELEC-72) | CSGS 1415 4 D2 |

Moved and seconded (V. Venkatesh, L. Caminati). Carried.

Business

7. Proposed Graduate Curriculum Changes

John Molson School of Business

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 7.1 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC | CSGS 1415 4 D3 |
| 7.2 | Certificate in Business Administration (GCBA-3) | CSGS 1415 4 D4 |
| 7.3 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC | CSGS 1415 4 D5 |
| 7.4 | Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA-4) | CSGS 1415 4 D6 |

Dr Wood-Adams began by stating that these items were removed from the consent agenda in an effort to highlight the excellent work the John Molson School of Business is doing in regard to curriculum innovation. Speaking privileges were requested for and granted to Dr Sandra Betton, Director, MBA Program. Dr Betton thanked the School of Graduate

Studies, in particular Frédérica Martin, for her guidance through the curriculum process. She further encouraged other units considering curriculum changes to include the School in their planning. The certificate and diploma in Business Administration were successfully launched five years ago and filled a niche in the market. Students come from across all Faculties with 34% from the Arts, 26% from the Sciences, and 16% from Engineering and Computer Science. The changes to the curriculum were based on student feedback and faculty member input. New course in business analytics and professional skills have been added while an ethics courses is deleted; ethics components have been added throughout the curriculum. A new capstone course focuses on business strategies. Dr Wood-Adams thanked the presenters for their work in keeping graduate studies cutting-edge and renewed.

Moved and seconded (V. Venkatesh, L. Caminati). Carried.

Presentations

8. Strategic Directions
Alan Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor
Benoît-Antoine Bacon, Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs

Dr Wood-Adams welcomed President Shepard and Provost Bacon. Dr Shepard gave a brief overview of the Strategic Directions' process and purpose, and enumerated some of the upcoming activities including an impressive list of guest speakers. Eight different Idea Groups were created and each is contemplating a particular question. He reiterated that the goal of this exercise is to be non bureaucratic and inspiring. Dr Shepard then turned over the podium to Dr Bacon who gave a presentation on the history of academic planning and its results at Concordia over the years which was followed by a discussion period. Council members stressed the importance of finding a healthy balance between student population growth and quality education. Members recognized the importance of cross-discipline research and expressed a desire to see more resources dedicated to interdisciplinary as well as the development of a framework to facilitate it. Dr Bacon agreed that the future is where disciplines converge and that it is critical to develop a platform for interdisciplinarity. Dr Wood-Adams noted that her own Idea Group is studying precisely this question and asked for Council members to send her any comments and feedback on the subject. Suggestions include focusing on critical mass areas rather than diluting our resources by spreading them widely across the university. It was also suggested that we target the health and para-health science areas. Another member suggested that the definition of 'research' be re-examined; i.e. what constitutes research? Dr Wood-Adams thanked Drs Shepard and Bacon for their presentation.

9. Associate University Librarian, Research and Graduate Studies
Dubravka Kapa

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

Information

10. Call for nominations for Honorary Doctorates

CSGS 1415 4 D7

Dr Wood-Adams reminded Council members that they may submit nominations for honorary doctorates to Council.

Other

11. Adjournment

Next Meeting: **March 30, 2015** from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in H-769