



**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

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

**May 12, 2016 at 10:00am room LB 362**

**PRESENT**

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

Voting members: K. Boies, S. Chauhan, A.-M. Croteau, M. Debbabi, E. Diamantoudi, P. Joyce (for K. Sawchuk), M. Mehmet Ali, B. Nelson, V. Peters, A. Piekny, R. Raut, K. Riad, K. Schmitt, A. Sebak, A. Whitelaw, S. Zahabi.

Non-Voting members: M. Jordan (Recording Secretary), B. Tucker.

Guests: S. Betton, M. Sokolon.

**REGRETS**

Voting members: A. Aghdam, S. Bhagwati, A. Dolatabadi, B. Freiwald, T. Gould, M. Kanji, J. Neves, E. Peltier-Wagner, R. Waldie.

Non-voting members: M. C. Bolton, 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 (B. Nelson, E. Diamantoudi). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of March 7, 2016

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, M. Debbabi). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Wood-Adams thanked Mr Brad Tucker for his service to Concordia University and wished him much success in his new position at McGill University.

The Chair remarked that the multiple award holder policy was to be repealed effective immediately as it is no longer relevant in our current decentralized awards allocation model. Also, a survey of sister intuitions revealed that such policies do not exist elsewhere.

Dr Wood-Adams announced that a new granting program to attract postdoctoral fellows was open for submissions. Due to the later than usual notification regarding the annual budget, the timeframe to apply was unfortunately short. The program aims to assist researchers who wish to work with PDFs by funding 25 to 30 new postdoctoral fellows per year, over two separate calls for candidates – in the Fall and Winter sessions. Faculty members were asked to relay comments and suggestions to the School with a view to improving the process.

Dr Wood-Adams reminded Council members to attend the upcoming convocation ceremonies in June.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

**Consent Agenda**

6. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

**Faculty of Arts and Science**

6.1	GCC report from the Chair of GCC	CSGS 1516 5 D1
6.2	Département d'études françaises (FRAN-25)	CSGS 1516 5 D2
6.3	GCC report from the Chair of GCC	CSGS 1516 5 D3
6.4	Department of Geography, Planning and Environment (GEOG-40)	CSGS 1516 5 D4
6.5	GCC report from the Chair of GCC	CSGS 1516 5 D5
6.6	Department of Physics (PHYS-17)	CSGS 1516 5 D6

**Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science**

6.7	GCC report from the Chair of GCC	CSGS 1516 5 D7
6.8	Department of Electrical Engineering (ELEC-75)	CSGS 1516 5 D8

### **Faculty of Fine Arts**

- 6.9 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 5 D9  
6.10 Department of Art History (ARTH-10) CSGS 1516 5 D10

### **John Molson School of Business**

- 6.11 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 5 D11  
6.12 Certificate in Business Administration (GCBA-5) CSGS 1516 5 D12  
  
6.13 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 5 D13  
6.14 Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA-4) CSGS 1516 5 D14  
  
7. Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominations CSGS 1516 5 D15  
  
Moved and seconded (A. Whitelaw, S. Zahabi). Carried.

### **Business**

8. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

### **Faculty of Arts and Science**

- 8.1 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 5 D16  
8.2 Department of Political Science (POLI-34) CSGS 1516 5 D17  
New Program: *Master of/Magisteriate in Arts (Political Science)*

Dr Nelson requested speaking privileges for Dr Marlene Sokolon of the Department of Political Science. Dr Nelson explained to Council that this proposal adds a third option to the existing Master's program in Political Science. This new option with a research theme, separate from the professional oriented program, will be more attractive to students who wish to conduct research. The Department expects now to be able to target recruitment activities towards candidates who would have normally sought admission at other institutions.

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, P. Joyce). Carried.

### **John Molson School of Business**

- 8.3 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 5 D18  
8.4 Master of/Magisteriate in Business Administration (MBA-27) CSGS 1516 5 D19

Dr Nelson requested speaking privileges for Dr Sandra Betton of the Department of Finance. Dr Betton outlined the purpose of the changes in that JMSB had been reviewing the MBA program for some time in an effort to align it with other programs to make it more competitive in the market. The new program will now require an interview during the admissions process. An ethics component was integrated into the program where as it was previously one course,

taken at the end. The new structure is more streamlined by reducing the total number of credits from 57 to 45 thereby allowing students to complete in a timelier manner and to participate in other important related activities. Dr Anne-Marie Croteau thanked Ms Frédérica Martin for providing the necessary tools to undertake this revision and Dr Betton for her work in coordinating all the various departments in JMSB.

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, A.-M. Croteau). Carried.

## 9. Time Limits

### 9.1 Time Limits for Master's programs CSGS 1516 5 D20

Dr Wood-Adams provided an overview of the changes to the time limits for master's programs. She explained the need to clarify the expected duration of programs all the while taking into consideration the particularities of certain programs. The document was amended to read:

**“Duration of Programs.** It is expected that full-time students will complete the requirements for most doctoral degree programs within 12 terms (4 years). The expected time to completion for a master's/magisteriate degree for full-time students is 9 terms (3 years) and the diploma and certificate is 3 terms (1 year).

Dr Anne Whitelaw and Ms Virginia Bruce were to meet to discuss the implications of this change on programs in the Faculty of Fine Arts, and to bring forward any resulting modifications at a future meeting of the Council.

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

## Discussion

### 10. School of Graduate Studies' Strategic Plan 2016-2021 CSGS 1516 5 D21

Dr Wood-Adams provided an outline of the document, highlighting the broad areas of focus: cultivate a graduate student-centred environment, prepare and train next-generation leaders, and reach beyond our walls. A question was raised as to why the tracking of our alumni was limited to PhD alumni. The Chair explained that the scope of the project is very large and that we will be participating in a SSHRC funded project with McGill University called TRACE that is following PhD graduates in the humanities. Our goal is to apply the methodologies and mechanisms in that project towards future tracking projects at the master's level.

Dr Nelson further elaborated on the TRACE project in that it is a three stage project. The first being to locate PhDs in the humanities, the second to connect with them and find out where they are, and the third is to create a community of sorts where PhDs in the humanities can network and reach out to each other. The aspects of this project could likely be adapted to other degree levels.

The Chair acknowledged that connections and community are one of the chief points of dissatisfaction amongst our graduate student and that the School will be welcoming a new Communications Advisor in the coming months. One of the objectives of this position is to develop new tools to create a network and a sense of community for graduate students. This and

the Community Building Fund are examples of actions the School is taking towards improving the overall graduate education experience.

**Other**            Next Meeting: to be determined

11.    Adjournment of the Open Session moved and seconded (B. Nelson, A. Aghdam).

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