



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

**November 30, 2015 at 10:00 am room H-763**

PRESENT

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

Voting members: S. Chauhan, M. Debbabi, E. Diamantoudi, A. Dolatabadi, B. Freiwald, T. Gould, B. Nelson, A. Piekny, K. Sawchuk, A. Sebak, A. Whitelaw.

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

Guests: R. Courtemanche.

REGRETS

Voting members: S. Bhagwati, K. Boies, L. Caminati, A.-M. Croteau, M. Kanji, M. Mehmet Ali, J. Neves, E. Peltier-Wagner, V. Peters, R. Raut, C. Reiss, K. Riad, R. Waldie, S. Zahabi.

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

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, B. Freiwald). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of October 1, 2015

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

#### 4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Wood-Adams thanked Dr Caminati, whose term was coming to an end, for his service to the School of Graduate Studies. She expressed her appreciation for his contribution to graduate education including the establishment of the Concordia University Summer Research Institute and the Graduate Studies video series. Dr Effrosyini (Faye) Diamantoudi will be taking on the Recruitment and Awards portfolio in January. Dr Amir Aghdam will also be joining the ranks of the School, taking over the Student Affairs and Postdoctoral Studies portfolio, also in January. Dr Wood-Adams announced that the Faculties would be receiving their awards allocation on December 2. She also thanked Ms Beaudion for her willingness to take on the administration of the Graduate Awards office while an integral person was on leave.

The Chair shared her experience at a recent conference in Edmonton put on by the Conference Board of Canada who undertook a project aimed at skills development in higher education. The Conference Board of Canada recently published a report entitled 'Inside and Outside of the Academy'. While Dr Wood-Adams did not agree with all of the arguments put forth in the report, she felt that it was an important and relevant topic, and would circulate it amongst Council members.

Dr Wood-Adams welcomed Dr Niem Hyunh, the University's new Manager of Graduate Recruitment, the two of them having just returned from a PhD fair in Beijing, China. This year's China recruitment trip was much more productive than in previous years with many more interested applicants. More than 50 applications were received and would be forwarded to relevant Graduate Program Directors and Faculty Associate Deans.

The Chair announced the establishment of a new initiative, the Graduate Community Building Fund. The purpose of the project is to fund community building activities amongst graduate students such as a speaker series, colloquia, etc. The initiative comes about in response to the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) which identified a sense of community as an area in need of improvement; students had expressed a sense of disconnect with their departments.

#### 5. Question Period

A Council member asked what sorts of expenses would be allowable under the Graduate Community Building Fund. Dr Wood-Adams replied that the objective is to be quite flexible and that expenses such as catering would be allowed. A recent negative report in the Globe and Mail about the status and utility of the PhD in Canada was invoked by another Council member. The Chair intended to request that the Canadian Association of Graduate Schools make a public reply to this article.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### 6. Election/Ratification

##### 6.1 Steering Committee Members

CSGS 1516 2 D1

6.2 Ratification – Faculty Tribunal Pool nominees CSGS 1516 2 D2

7. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

**Faculty of Arts and Science**

7.1 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 2 D3

7.2 Department of English (ENGL-25) CSGS 1516 2 D4

7.3 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 2 D5

7.4 Department of Geography, Planning and Environment (GEOG-34) CSGS 1516 2 D6

7.5 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 2 D7

7.6 Department of Mathematics and Statistics (MATH-24) CSGS 1516 2 D8

7.7 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 2 D9

7.8 Department of Political science (POLI-35) CSGS 1516 2 D10

**Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science**

7.9 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 2 D11

7.10 Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering (BLDG-68) CSGS 1516 2 D12

7.11 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 2 D13

7.12 Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (COMP-76) CSGS 1516 2 D14

7.12 GCC report from the Chair of GCC CSGS 1516 2 D15

7.14 Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (COMP-78) CSGS 1516 2 D16

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

**Business**

8. Proposed Graduate Curriculum Changes

**Faculty of Arts and Science**

8.1 GCC report from the Chair of GCC (*to follow*) CSGS 1516 2 D17

8.2 Department of Exercise Science (EXCI-17) CSGS 1516 2 D18  
New Program: *Doctor of/Doctorate in Philosophy (Health and Exercise Science)*

Dr Nelson requested speaking privileges for Dr Richard Courtemanche of the Department of Exercise Science. Dr Courtemanche gave an overview of the path that brought the program proposal to this point, starting with a Letter of Intent in 2009. With a flourishing master's program and several INDI PhD graduates under its belt, the department's introduction of this

new PhD program is timely and on track with current trends in fields related to health. It focuses on health, nutrition and exercise, and is an extension of Exercise Science into other health disciplines leveraging on the Perform Centre and other neighbouring health research centres and hospitals. The new program will allow faculty members and students to delve deeper into current research trends and differs from current similar programs by its integrative perspective. The Department intends to begin soft recruitment once the PhD is approved by Senate.

Moved and seconded (B. Nelson, K. Sawchuk). Carried.

## Discussion

9. Distinguished University Research Professor Proposal CSGS 1516 2 D19

Dr Wood-Adams provided an overview of the proposal and explained this it is honorific in nature and non-monetary. The Chair agreed to suggest that faculty member recipients be asked to hold an event, perhaps in collaboration with Advancement and Alumni Relations, to raise the university's research profile in the community. It was also suggested that untenured faculty members or students be permitted to nominate candidates.

10. *Rapport sur les compétences visées dans les formations aux cycles supérieurs – ADÉSAQ* CSGS 1516 2 D20

Dr Nelson gave a brief summary of the purpose and findings of the document and invited Council members to consult it more thoroughly. He pointed out that the report is broad and serves as a point of departure for a deeper study on recruitment, progress reporting, etc. He asked members to send any comments or suggestions to Ms Frédérica Martin.

**Other**            Next Meeting: February 1, 2016 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in H-763

11. Adjournment

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