

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

**December 18, 2017 at 10:00 am room LB 362**

**PRESENT**

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

Voting members: K. Boies, S. Chang-Kredl, S. Chauhan, M. Debbabi, D. Howes, B. Jaumard, B. Nelson, P. Pawelek, E. Peltier-Wagner, A. Poteete, L. Qashu, K. Sawchuk, G. Vaillancourt, V. Venkatesh, M. Watson, C. Wild.

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

Guests: C. de Wolf.

**REGRETS**

Voting members: A. Aghdam, C. Assi, O. Ait Mohamed, J. Berzowksa, S. Bhagwati, D. Erropole, T. Mohamed, A. Soliman, M. Taufiquzzaman, S. Ullah.

Non-voting members: W. Cheaib, S. Gabriele, J. Powlowski, D. Therrien.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (V. Venkatesh, K. Sawchuk). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of November 13, 2017

Moved and seconded (K. Sawchuk, A. Poteete). Carried.

#### 4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Wood-Adams informed Council that she had recently attended the annual conference of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) in Arizona; CGS is a large, influential organization with over 2,000 members. Dr Wood-Adams presented on graduate and professional skills training initiatives such as our own GradProSkills program. There was a large turnout for the panel in spite of very pointed parallels sessions which speaks to the interest this issue generates in the arena of graduate education.

The Chair recently returned from a recruitment trip in China, including stops in Beijing and Shanghai. Ms Meredith Evans, coordinator, graduate admissions and recruitment in the Faculty of Arts and Science, attended the fair with Dr Wood-Adams. They met some 200 students many of whom already had funding through the China Scholarship Council program. The School in conjunction with Alumni Relations organized two outreach events, one in each city.

The School of Graduate Studies announced the second cohort of Public Scholars had been selected and will begin their term in May. They will receive extensive training over the Winter term. A Now article introducing the Public Scholars was to be released shortly.

Dr Wood-Adams concluded her remarks by wishing Council members a happy holiday season.

#### 5. Question Period

A Council member noted that the recruitment of China Scholarship Council holders proved very difficult in the previous year and asked if there were any measures being taken to improve our strategy this time around. Dr Wood-Adams stated that while the PhD recruitment fair is extremely competitive – Concordia faces tough competition in European universities and other wealthier Canadian universities – there are steps that can improve our success rates in recruiting these candidates including earlier responses to admission applications, issuing offers of admission with upfront funding packages, targeting potential supervisors early on. The Chair remarked that our sister institutions in Canada are often quicker in processing application for admission than we are at Concordia which plays a role in our recruitment efforts.

### Business

#### 6. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

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

##### **Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science**

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|-----|---|----------------|
| 6.1 | GCC report from the Chair of GCC  | CSGS 1718 3 D1 |
| 6.2 | Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry / Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering / Electrical and Computer Engineering / Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering<br>New Program: <i>MSc in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology</i> | CSGS 1718 3 D2 |

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

Dr Nelson provided a brief introduction to the new program. He thanked the various originating departments including Drs Christine de Wolf and William Lynch, as well as Ms Iliada Athienitis, Ms Nicole Freeman, Ms Marwa Gouda and Ms Frédérica Martin for their work which was instrumental in seeing this program through to fruition, a first of its kind at Concordia. Dr Nelson then invited Dr de Wolf from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry to give an overview of the proposal.

Dr de Wolf introduced the program as a convergence building on nanotechnology in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, and nanoscience in the Faculty of Arts and Science, a continuum in the field. In industry, for example, research teams include scientists and engineers. This program seeks to teach scientists and engineers to work in teams, each will have core requirements designed to allow one to understand the other's discipline.

While other similar programs do exist in Canada, this one is unique in that it requires co-supervision across the two faculties which seeks to ensure that research is being conducted at the boundary of the two disciplines. Both the course work and research will transcend the two fields in addition to the requirement that a student's advisory committee comprise professors from both faculties.

There was some concern from Council members that the introduction of new programs adversely affects the funding available to existing programs. Dr Sawchuk stated that the effect of new programs on funding is of extreme concern to the Faculty of Arts and Science. Dr Debbabi also expressed concern about available funding for graduate students, and he and Dr Venkatesh agreed to speak further about this matter at another occasion.

A question as to the sustainability of the co-supervision model was raised. Dr de Wolf noted that these sorts of collaboration between professors and across faculties are already common in the field.

Dr Nelson concluded by saying that this initiative required a new method of cooperation between faculties, and wished to encourage Council members to consider future partnership ideas as pathways do exist.

## **Presentation**

7. Keroles Riad, PhD Candidate, Individualized Program  
*Waste not, Want not – Compost Collaboration*

Mr Keroles Riad provided Council members with an overview of the current composting activities ongoing at Concordia including some comparative information about other institutions such as proximity to composting facilities and the need to transport compostable material over long distances.

His presentation also included an overview of the STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) report for Concordia which aims to provide details on sustainability as it relates to curriculum and learning outcomes, and ongoing research at Concordia. While

Concordia had very high marks in the Academic Research category, we seemed to trail in the Learning Outcomes category which surprised some members. It was decided that a representative from the Environmental Health and Safety office would be invited to a future meeting to discuss the methodology behind the STARS report.

**Other**                Next Meeting: February 26, 2018 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in LB 362

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

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