

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

November 8, 2021 at 10:00 am via Zoom

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: E. Diamantoudi (Chair), D. Lafrance (Secretary), J. Wiercinski.

Voting members: R. Berger, S. Bertrand, D. Bowen, S. Chauhan, K. Clark, G. Dover, Y. Gélinas, Y.-G. Guéhéneuc, E. Lagou, M. Medraj, P. Pawelek, I. Richmond, F. Scala, D. Secko, E. Shihab, A. Sinner, A. Soliman, M. Steinberg, M. Sussman, L. Switzer, M. Zaare.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles.

Guests: K. Belloso, G. Beltran, D. Cossette, E. MacFadden, L. Ostiguy, C. Raso.

REGRETS

Voting members: K. Boies, S. Han, D. Howes, MJ Thompson.

Non-Voting members: W. Cheaib, S. Gabriele, J. Powlowski.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order immediately following the Closed Session.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (P. Pawelek, E. Lagou). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of October 7, 2021

Moved and seconded (P. Pawelek, A. Soliman). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

In light of the presentations, Dr Diamantoudi kept her remarks brief. She informed Council members that the situation involving international students who had failed to

upload proper immigration documents had significantly improved. The School alongside other units at the university had successfully reduced the list of 300 plus students by approximately half; efforts remained ongoing for full resolution.

5. Question Period

A Council member inquired if students would be permitted to defer to the Fall 2022 session in programs where there is no January admission. Dr Diamantoudi clarified that deferral to January was preferable, when possible, but that students unable to join the university in the Winter term could defer to a later term.

Consent Agenda

6. Proposed Graduate Calendar Text changes CSGS 2122 2 D1

Moved and seconded (E. Shihab, M. Medraj). Carried.

Reports

7. Graduate Curriculum Committee Update
Rachel Berger, Associate Dean, Academic Programs and Development

Dr Rachel Berger provided Council members with a summary of the latest curriculum dossiers reviewed by the Graduate Curriculum Committee. While the majority have been routine and straightforward in nature, the Department of Art History presented a proposal demonstrating interesting curriculum renewal, and equity, diversity and inclusion adaptations that could inspire other departments and programs.

Presentations

8. Denis Cossette, *Chief Financial Officer*
Budget Update

Mr Cossette provided Council members with an overview of the university's current financial situation along with a 10-year historical perspective. Discussion points included transitioning to a post-COVID environment, rethinking the nature and scope of space, the diversification of our student body as well as continued financial support of graduate students.

In closing, My Cossette reminded the membership that this year's Centraide campaign was in full swing and invited them to consider a pledge to assist vulnerable populations and community groups in Montreal.

9. Lisa Ostiguy, *Special Advisor, Campus Life and Supports*
Twelve-week term/Fall break

Dr Ostiguy presented Council members with the university's plan to move to 12-week terms with an added Fall reading week. While new to Concordia, a shorter academic term is currently in use in a number of institutions across Canada. The proposal was endorsed by Senate in March of 2019 following the recommendations of a working group with representation from all sectors across the university.

The 12-week term has a number of benefits to both students and faculty members including catch-up time for course work or research activities and improved mental health, among others. The adjustment could also present challenges in course delivery, accreditation bodies and overall perceptions in the community.

The university envisages a planned lead up to implementation with communication and awareness in year one (2021-2022), training and logistics in year two (2022-2023), and implementation and evaluation in the final year (2023-2024).

Dr Ostiguy invited Council members to consider participating in one of the project's three working groups (internships, accreditation and logistics).

10. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (M. Medraj, F. Scala). Carried.

Other Next Meeting: December 13, 2021 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies