

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

**November 18, 2022 at 10:00 am in AD 311 (LOY)
and via Zoom**

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: E. Diamantoudi (Chair), R. Johal, D. Lafrance (Secretary).

Voting members: A. Aghdam, R. Berger, D. Bowen, A. Fattoum-Guedri, M. Medraj, S. Moritz, P. Pawelek, D. Raju, I. Richmond, F. Scala, A. Sinner, A. Soliman, M. Sussman, S. Ullah, C. Wilds, F. Yuen, M. Zaare.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles, S. Gabriele.

Guests: Shalani Bel, K. Belloso, E. MacFadden, C. Raso.

REGRETS

Voting members: C. An, K. Boies, Y. Gélinas, D. Howes, X. Huang, R. Johal, A. Salas, M. Steinberg, MJ Thompson.

Non-Voting members: W. Cheaib.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (P. Pawelek, R. Berger). Carried.

The Chair reminded members who wish to add items to the agenda to get in touch with the Secretary of Council prior to the circulation of the meeting documents.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of October 6, 2022

Moved and seconded (P. Pawelek, R. Berger). Carried.

A correction to the Minutes was noted.

4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Diamantoudi updated members on some of the recent events where the School was represented including Open House, Grad Corner and Application Day. A return to a pre-Covid campus feeling was evident with many potential graduate students present.

The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) hosted its 60th Annual Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Montreal. The SGS decanal team and various staff members attended. A significant overarching theme was rethinking the PhD with the reality that doctoral graduates are not getting academic positions.

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) was another key focus: understanding what it is and how we practice it. The expectations of student applicants who are pursuing graduate studies represents a barrier to putting EDI measures in place, we need to think differently.

Microprograms are a burgeoning curriculum innovation in graduate education across the country. They provide professional development opportunities, job skills, and may introduce students to alternative pathways.

5. Question Period

There was some discussion about the role of graduate students in EDI and ways in which they can be ambassadors. Other topics included how EDI and experiential learning can compliment each other.

Presentations

6. Future of Teaching and Learning

Sandra Gabriele, Vice-Provost, Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Dr Gabriele provided an overview of the important takeaways from a consultation exercise conducted by the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Discussions with both internal and external experts have helped shape the next strategic plan. Five actions were identified in these discussions supported by two core values – support holistic learner experience, and foster learner belonging and inclusion. The five main commitments are greater program and pedagogical innovation, learner well-being and success, value teaching, partner widely and effectively, and improve institutional supports and processes. A survey is to be sent out shortly for feedback on supporting the future of the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Faculty, student-facing staff and students will be invited to interviews and to input data into the survey. Council members were asked to share this information with colleagues and students.

7. PhD Careers Connect
Faye Diamantoudi, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies
Rachel Berger, Associate Dean, Academic Programs and Development

PhD Career Connect was introduced last year in the Spring of 2022 with a view to preparing students better for careers and will continue again this year. The objective is to help PhD students present and articulate their skills to industry in a changing job market. Thirty percent of participants secured a position within four months after the immersive event.

In response to a question about including master's students, Dr Berger replied that while that is desirable, the resources are not available at this time given the broad population of master's students at Concordia. Master's students do have access to many developmental opportunities through GradProSkills workshops.

Further discussion ensued about the point at which students begin to consider professional development in their academic career.

Other

8. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (F. Scala, P. Pawelek). Carried.

Next Meeting: December 15, 2022 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in LB 362

Respectfully submitted,

Erika MacFadden
Acting Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies