

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

**March 12, 2026 at 10:00 am in EV 2.309**

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: G. Carr, G. Dover (Chair), T. Evans, R. Johal.

Voting members: E. Adams, C. An, A. Champagne, M. Consalvo, R. Cross, F. Davis, K. Dunfield, M. Filipowich, E. Lagou, J. Lebel, C. Poullis, F. Scala, H. Wasson, F. Yuen.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles, M. Jordan (Recording Secretary), E. MacFadden (Secretary).

Guests: G. Beltran, N. Butt, J. Garand, C. Mancini, C. Raso.

REGRETS

Voting members: J. Arsenault, V. M. Ajmeri, D. Erol, A. Fakhir, F. Grond, M. Legault-Rodrigues, C. Lesage, W. Linds, P. Peres-Neto, B. Vermeire, L. Yao.

Non-Voting members: R. Berger, W. Cheaib.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (E. Lagou, F. Yuen). Carried, as amended.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of December 11, 2025

Moved and seconded (E. Lagou, F. Yuen). Carried.

4. President's Remarks

The President provided an update on graduate studies, noting continued strength in PhD enrolment and emphasizing the importance of graduate students to the university's research mission. While external funding for research-based graduate

students remains stable, pressures at the provincial level and anticipated budget constraints may affect future funding, with limited expectations for increased support in higher education. The President also highlighted emerging federal recognition of PhD-level training and noted ongoing discussions around immigration pathways and named fellowships.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair presented an overview of current graduate admissions trends across course-based, thesis-based, and PhD programs, noting ongoing monitoring of enrolment patterns. Updates were provided on recruitment and outreach activities, including a decline in Winter Open House attendance driven primarily by reduced participation from Quebec, offset by increased interest from out-of-province and U.S. applicants. Additional recruitment initiatives, such as a Graduate Studies event at 4<sup>th</sup> SPACE and an upcoming Virtual Info Day, were highlighted. The Chair also introduced plans for the Grey Nuns study space now under SGS administration, including an upcoming Open House event to engage stakeholders. Finally, progress on integrated undergraduate–graduate pathways was noted, with multiple pathways established and initial student uptake reported.

6. Question Period

Members raised the importance of strengthening communication and outreach by sharing student success stories, including examples from Fine Arts and alumni trajectories, to support recruitment and donor engagement. The need to enhance financial support for graduate students through coordinated donor strategies and matching funds was also noted.

**Consent Agenda**

7. Ratification of CSGS motions from December 11, 2025 CSGS 2526 4 D1

Moved and seconded (F. Scala, E. Lagou). Carried.

**Business**

8. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

- 8.1. Varia CSGS 2526 3 D2

The proposed changes to the Graduate Calendar were primarily housekeeping in nature; corrections to grammar and usage.

Moved and seconded (K. Dunfield, H. Wasson). Carried.

**Information**

9. New curriculum approval process

Dr Lebel presented a revised three-tiered approval framework for new programs and program changes, consisting of Full, Expedited, and Express processes. The Full Process applies to new degree programs and major revisions and requires comprehensive internal and external approvals. The Expedited Process applies to new short-term credentials and degree programs with fewer than 30% new credits, streamlining approvals through concurrent committee review. The Express Process applies to minor program changes and short-term credentials with limited new content, with approvals largely for information at Faculty Councils and CSGS.

## **Other**

### 10. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (E. Lagou, K. Dunfield). Carried.

Next Meeting: May 7, 2026 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in EV 2.309

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan  
Recording Secretary  
Council of the School of Graduate Studies