

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

May 7, 2026 at 10:00 am in EV 2.309

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: G. Dover (Chair), J. Moore (for R. Johal).

Voting members: E. Adams, C. An, J. Arsenault, A. Champagne, M. Consalvo, R. Cross, K. Dunfield, D. Erol, E. Lagou, J. Lebel, M. Legault-Rodrigues, C. Lesage, W. Linds, P. Peres-Neto, C. Poullis, F. Scala, B. Vermeire, H. Wasson, L. Yao, F. Yuen.

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

Guests: N. Butt, C. Kramar, C. Raso.

REGRETS

Voting members: V. M. Ajmeri, F. Davis, A. Fakhir, M. Filipowich.

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. Scala). Carried, as amended.

A member noted that since the Studio Arts MFA changed from course-based to thesis based in the fall, the students who applied last year applied to the course-based program, and this year, students were only able to apply to the thesis-based program. In light of this, admission figures for the Studio Arts MFA may be affected.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of March 12, 2026

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

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair reported on the inaugural Graduate Studies Virtual Info Day held on March 24, which attracted 891 registrants and 379 attendees and featured sessions on admissions, supervision, research, funding and awards.

Council was reminded that complete thesis examination packages must be submitted at least six weeks before the proposed defence date. Beginning in Summer 2026, revised thesis submission deadlines will apply in conjunction with the introduction of a third graduation cycle, with no extensions permitted.

The Chair also noted that Faculty GPD information sessions are planned for Fall 2026 and presented admissions data for the Summer/Fall 2026 intake. Council was reminded that the first Fall CSGS meeting will be held at Loyola.

5. Question Period

A member inquired if the School was planning to hold more frequent GPA sessions, given the turnover in these positions as of late. The Chair assured Council that additional sessions would be organised.

Consent Agenda

6. Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominees ratification CSGS 2526 5 D1

Moved and seconded (K. Dunfield, C. Lesage). Carried.

Reports

7. Graduate awards update
Charis Poullis, Associate Dean, Graduate Awards and Recruitment

Dr Poullis provided updates on graduate recruitment and awards, including the inaugural Virtual Info Day and the new Graduate Program Availability webpage.

Council was advised that PhD eligibility for the Conference and Exposition Allowance has been reduced from three to two awards during the first five years of a program, with a new submission form forthcoming.

Updates were also presented on Tri-Agency and Fonds de recherche du Québec competitions, including application volumes, success rates and the relationship between institutional performance and future quotas.

Two Concordia PhD candidates were named 2026 Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation scholars. The Associate Dean also highlighted the redevelopment of the SGS awards website to improve access to funding opportunities, application information, award management and student support resources.

There was some concern expressed by Council members with regard to the reduction in tuition waivers and its impact on international recruitment. Members also suggested that the School lobby the university to allow former graduates to keep their Concordia email addresses. It was noted that conversations around this issue are ongoing.

Other

8. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting: Fall 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies