

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

November 13, 2025 at 10:00 am in EV 2.309

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: G. Dover (Chair).

Voting members: E. Adams, A. Champagne, M. Consalvo, K. Dunfield, D. Erol, M. Filipowich, E. Lagou, M. Legault-Rodrigues, C. Lesage, W. Linds, P. Peres-Neto, F. Scala, A. Soliman, P. Stoyanov, M. Sussman, E. Tsabary, B. Vermeire, L. Yao, F. Yuen.

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

Guests: G. Beltran, N. Butt, R. Cheikh-Ibrahim, R. DeMont.

REGRETS

Voting members: V. M. Ajmeri, C. An, J. Arsenault, F. Davis, A. Fakhir, F. Grond, E. MacFadden (Secretary), C. Poullis, M. Salazkina.

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, A. Soliman). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of September 25, 2025

Moved and seconded (E. Lagou, C. Lesage). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair reported on recent staffing changes in the Office of the Dean: Donald Lafrance has been seconded to the Provost's Office for a one-year appointment as

Senior Director of Strategic Enrolment Management, and Erika MacFadden has assumed the Director's responsibilities in the interim.

Dr Dover provided an update on the recent CAGS Conference, noting its focus on graduate education as a public good and the visibility of Concordia's Public Scholars and 3MT participants.

The Chair discussed federal announcements related to multi-year immigration planning and their implications for Québec institutions, including tighter study-permit caps, unclear alignment between federal and provincial quotas, and a regional shift favouring settlement outside Montréal/Laval. The university is engaging with BCI and provincial partners to seek clarity on student-flow targets and PSTQ transition processes.

Finally, the Chair reviewed Fall 2025 admissions trends. Applications have declined sharply over five years, but yield has increased to 31%. Canadian/Permanent Resident growth and gains in thesis programs partially offset international declines. Despite the lowest number of PhD applications in five years, faculties increased offers, leading to higher confirmations and registrations.

5. Question Period

There was some discussion on the university's collecting the admission application fee when the likelihood of a student being able to obtain necessary immigration documents is low. It was also suggested that the application fee be waived, in certain circumstances.

The option of having two application deadlines was discussed. Originally, it was stated that SGS was against having the two deadlines. One suggestion was moving the deadline up for both international and non-international students. This option needs to be discussed further.

Business

6. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

6.1. New Program: MSc in Athletic Therapy

CSGS 2526 2 D1

Dr Dover granted speaking privileges to Dr DeMont who provided a summary of the Department of Health, Kinesiology, and Applied Physiology's proposal to phase out the BSc in Athletic Therapy and introduce a 45-credit MScAT to align with evolving accreditation standards in Québec, Canada, and the U.S. The shift follows national trends toward graduate-level professional training and reflects expanded responsibilities of Athletic Therapists.

The proposed two-year program would follow CATA competencies, maintain CATA accreditation, and seek additional U.S. accreditation (CAATE). The department anticipates minimal impact on undergraduate enrolment and expects the MScAT to

attract more mature candidates locally and internationally. The proposal aligns with Québec regulatory expectations that AT programs move to the master's level.

Moved and seconded (F. Scala, K. Dunfield). Carried.

6.2. Recognition of Prior Learning

CSGS 2526 2 D2

Dr Dunfield provided an overview of the development of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) within the broader provincial framework of Recognition of Acquired Competencies (RAC). RPL is focused specifically on recognizing non-formal and informal prior learning, particularly professional experience.

Since 2023, the institution has followed a three-year plan—Preparation, Adoption, and now Implementation—to establish RPL, including extensive consultation and the development of regulatory and procedural structures. The new academic regulations define the scope and eligibility for awarding academic credit through RPL, limiting it to enrolled students in approved programs and setting minimum experience and assessment requirements.

The dossier proposes introducing RAC as the umbrella category for all forms of prior learning recognition at Concordia, including transfer credit, integrated pathways, and RPL.

Moved and seconded (K. Dunfield, A. Champagne). Carried.

Presentations

7. Doctoral peer mentorship program: Building resilient academic communities *Racha Cheikh-Ibrahim, Officer, Graduate Professional Development*

Ms Cheikh-Ibrahim presented an update on the Doctoral Peer Mentorship Program, a group-based initiative supporting early-stage PhD students. The program brings together cohorts of 20–25 new PhD students led by four trained senior doctoral mentors. It combines mentorship circles, check-ins, and community events, and complements existing academic, career, and wellness services.

The program aims to strengthen early transition, promote retention, increase resource awareness, and foster a stronger academic culture. It also provides paid experiential learning opportunities for mentors. Planned next steps include expanding the program to later PhD years and master's students, strengthening evaluation and the mentor community of practice, integrating the program into recruitment and orientation, conducting winter recruitment for the next cohort, and increasing visibility across departments and faculties.

Other

8. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (F. Yuen, C. Lesage). Carried.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2025 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in EV 3.309

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies