

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

September 25, 2025 at 10:00 am in EV 2.309

PRESENT

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

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

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

Guests: N. Butt, J. Ibarra-Isassi, E. MacFadden, C. Raso.

REGRETS

Voting members: J. Arsenault, M. Legault-Rodrigues, M. Salazkina, E. Tsabary.

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair conducted a tour de table.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (E. Lagou, B. Vermeire). Carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of May 8, 2025

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

5. Chair's Remarks

Dr Dover outlined the mission, powers, and expectations of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies. The mission statement affirms the School of Graduate Studies' role in supporting high-quality education, research, and professional training across all faculties while promoting innovation and collaboration. He also reviewed the Council's governance responsibilities, including establishing policies for admissions, evaluation, and academic standards.

The Chair highlighted leadership transitions in the Dean's Office and recent admission trends: graduate applications have declined significantly over five years—particularly among international applicants—though yield rates and PhD registrations remain strong.

He concluded with upcoming initiatives such as a doctoral peer mentorship program, a graduate exit survey, recognition of prior learning and a third graduation cycle, as well as the standardization of admission letters.

6. Question Period

There were no questions.

Consent Agenda

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 7. | Steering Committee Members ratification | CSGS 2526 1 D1 |
| 8. | Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominees ratification | CSGS 2526 1 D2 |
| 9. | Graduate Curriculum Committee modification | CSGS 2526 1 D3 |

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

Business

10. Proposed Graduate Calendar Changes

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------|----------------|
| 10.1. | Language Proficiency | CSGS 2526 1 D4 |
|-------|----------------------|----------------|

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

Students are currently permitted to submit assignments and write exams in French, and graduates from Francophone Quebec universities are exempt from English proficiency testing. Therefore, imposing an English entrance exam places an unnecessary obstacle for applicants from France and Francophone Belgium, where French is the primary language of instruction.

Presentation

11. PhD Career Outcomes 2025: Tracking Concordia's Doctoral Careers
Javier Ibarra-Isassi, Coordinator, Graduate Research and Thesis Support

Dr Ibarra-Isassi provided Council members a summary of a study conducted by SGS that traced the professional paths of Concordia PhD graduates from 2014 to 2024. The project examined employment outcomes one to five years after graduation using verified public data and produced both a report and an internal interactive dashboard. The findings show that roughly 41% of Concordia PhDs remain in academia—slightly below national averages—but that graduates build successful, diverse careers across all sectors.

Faculty Updates

12. Francesca Scala, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Arts and Science

Dr Scala provided insights into the Faculty of Arts and Science's current admissions strategies. The Faculty continues to offer support to departments in their recruitment efforts particularly at the PhD level.

Brian Vermeire, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science

Dr Vermeire outlined key developments in graduate studies within the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. Most MEng programs, except BCEE, have been restructured as one- to two-year integrated pathways, while thesis-based enrolments are projected to reach record PhD levels by Winter 2026. The School is actively undertaking recruitment initiatives that have attracted strong interest and is also expanding international partnerships particularly in Europe and Africa.

Information

13. Council of the School of Graduate Studies

13.1	Council Members 2025-2026	CSGS 2526 1 D5
13.2	Membership and Powers of Council	CSGS 2526 1 D6

The above documents were distributed to Council members for their information.

Other

14. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (B. Vermeire, F. Scala). Carried.

Next Meeting: Fall 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies