

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

October 7, 2021 at 10:00 am via Zoom

PRESENT

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

Voting members: R. Berger, S. Bertrand, S. Betton, S. Chauhan, K. Clark, G. Dover, Y. Gélinas, Y.-G. Guéhéneuc, D. Howes, E. Lagou, M. Medraj, P. Pawelek, F. Scala, D. Secko, E. Shihab, A. Soliman, M. Sussman, L. Switzer, MJ Thompson, M. Zaare.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles.

Guests: N. Butt, C. Raso.

REGRETS

Voting members: D. Bowen, S. Han, I. Richmond, A. Sinner, M. Steinberg.

Non-Voting members: W. Cheaib, S. Gabriele, J. Powlowski.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order immediately following the Closed Session.

2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair conducted a tour de table.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (E. Lagou, A. Soliman). Carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of May 20, 2021

Moved and seconded (A. Soliman, E. Lagou). Carried.

5. Chair's Remarks

Dr Diamatoudi welcomed Council members to the first meeting of the academic year and informed them of the roles of the Council and of the Powers of Council. She further highlighted particularly important and relevant sections of the Council's mission statement. She also provided an overview of the School's activities, accomplishments and challenges, over the previous year as well as a look towards the coming term.

6. Question Period

A Council member raised the issue of the increase in cases of academic misconduct and remarked that it appears to be a generalized phenomenon at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. It was also noted that the surge has now appeared to have levelled off as the university community has adapted to remote- and hybrid-learning environments.

The possible affects of Covid-19 on the demographics of prospective students was discussed, in particular the reduction in applicants from China to JMSB programs. Whether this was due to the ongoing health crisis, political tensions or a general shift in markets, was uncertain; the Chair suggested that a more in-depth analysis could be conducted and presented to Council at a later date.

Consent Agenda

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|----|---|----------------|
| 7. | Steering Committee Members ratification | CSGS 2122 1 D1 |
| 8. | Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominees ratification | CSGS 2122 1 D2 |

Moved and seconded (P. Pawelek, M. Medraj). Carried.

Faculty Updates

9. Sandra Betton, *Associate Dean, Professional Graduate Programs, John Molson School of Business*

Dr Betton provided Council members with a brief overview of JMSB's recent undertakings as well as some of the challenges the faculty is facing. The EMBA program is now being offered across the country, the MSc has a new professional development component and the PhD is also undergoing curricular revisions. With regard to recruitment efforts in the MBA, the current situation brought to light the lack of diversity in the applicant pool. Efforts have been made to increase interest from local students and other international regions, such as Latin America.

Francesca Scala, *Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Arts and Science*

Dr Scala reminded CSGS that Arts and Science has over 50 graduate programs, including 14 PhDs across the humanities, social sciences and sciences. While this diversity of offerings is a strength, its breadth also represents administrative challenges. The Arts and Science, Graduate Studies' team has now grown to five staff people to help improve processes and maintain best practices across the faculty. The faculty has made strides in PhD recruitment with a new top-up award and plans to tackle times to completion, EDI integration and comprehensive exams in the future.

Emad Shihab, *Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science*

As the largest engineering school in Quebec and one of the largest in Canada, Dr Shihab was pleased to report on solid, steady growth in graduate studies at GCS. Until recently the faculty relied heavily on international recruitment which became a serious concern over the last 20 months. The faculty together with the university's support is successfully weathering the storm and is now looking forward to diversifying its student body and bolstering its research profile. It also will continue to streamline administrative processes and lead in EDI integration while innovating at the curricular level.

MJ Thompson, *Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Fine Arts*

With a new Dean at the helm, Dr Thompson noted that Fine Arts will be largely focused on strategic planning in the coming months. Fine Arts is proud of its work on equity and diversity, and decolonization and its strength in blurring the lines between the artist and the scholar. Like other sectors of the university, it is still recovering from Covid-19 and is hoping to address issues of researcher exhaustion and the need for increased studio space. Fine Arts is managing to maintain its competitiveness with regard to student funding and recognized SGS's contribution in this area. There is also a desire to bring recruitment discussions to a faculty level, having been mostly managed in the departments previously.

Information

10. Council of the School of Graduate Studies

10.1 Council Membership 2021-2022

CSGS 2122 1 D3

10.2 Powers of Council

CSGS 2122 1 D4

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

11. Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) Update

Dr Rachel Berger provided Council members with a summary of the latest curriculum dossiers reviewed by the Graduate Curriculum Committee. As the incoming Chair, she sees the committee as a forum for navigating challenges and hashing out new ideas, and hopes to bring broader discussions including billing reform and the decolonization of the curriculum, to name a few.

12. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (E. Lagou, M. Medraj). Carried.

Other Next Meeting: November 8, 2021 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies