

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

October 6, 2022 at 10:00 am in LB 362

PRESENT

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

Voting members: A. Aghdam, R. Berger, A. Fattoum-Guedri, X. Huang, M. Medraj, S. Mortiz, P. Pawelek, D. Raju, I. Richmond, A. Salas, F. Scala, A. Soliman, M. Sussman, MJ Thompson, S. Ullah, F. Yuen, M. Zaare.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles.

Guests: G. Beltran, N. Butt, E. MacFadden, C. Raso.

REGRETS

Voting members: C. An, D. Bowen, Y. Gélinas, D. Howes, A. Sinner, M. Steinberg, C. Wilds.

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

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 (P. Pawelek, K. Boies). Carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of May 19, 2022

Moved and seconded (A. Salas, M. Medraj). Carried.

5. Chair's Remarks

Dr Diamantoudi gave a presentation to members on the School's various units' – student affairs, awards, recruitment, academic programs, GradProSkills – recent and upcoming activities and projects.

6. Question Period

In response to a question about the disparity in funding amounts from student to student, Dr Diamantoudi stated that while the problem persists, it is decreasing. Institutional funds are capped and more easily reattributed, and Concordia is a co-signee on a movement to see Tri-Council baseline funding increased.

Consent Agenda

7. Steering Committee Members ratification CSGS 2223 1 D1

8. Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominees ratification CSGS 2223 1 D2

Moved and seconded (R. Berger, P. Pawelek). Carried.

Faculty Updates

9. *Amir Aghdam, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science*

Dr Aghdam outlined the upcoming initiatives, priorities and challenges facing the Gina Cody School. Projects on the horizon include a new program in cybersecurity systems and the development of micro-credentials. The Gina Cody School plans to hone its enrolment strategies by undertaking a study of declining survey results and targeted communication actions on experiential learning as well as outreach to students without a supervisor. The return to an in-person campus environment is proving to be the most difficult challenge at present.

Kathleen Boies, Associate Dean, Research and Research Programs, John Molson School of Business

Dr Boies provided Council members with a brief overview of JMSB's recent undertakings from a research program perspective. She reiterated CSGS that professional programs fall under the portfolio of Associate Dean, Sandra Betton. With five MSc programs and the largest joint PhD program in Canada, the John Molson School has successfully revised all their curriculum after many years of stagnancy, harmonizing standards and guidelines as well as introducing a co-op component. Dr Boies saluted the assistance provided by SGS in this endeavour. While funding is an

ongoing hurdle, support has improved and JMSB hopes to initiate a culture shift among faculty members in grant application efforts.

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

Dr Scala reminded CSGS that Arts and Science has over 55 graduate programs, including a significant number of PhDs across the humanities, social sciences and sciences. While this diversity of offerings is a strength, its breadth also represents administrative challenges when creating standards and guidelines. The faculty intends to prioritize times to completion in collaboration with the School of Graduate Studies, increase oversight of funding at the department level to foster equity in student support, and re-energize the Arts and Science graduate student community in this post-Covid environment.

MJ Thompson, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Fine Arts

Dr Thompson noted that Fine Arts has largely been focused on strategic planning having recently released a new plan. Fine Arts is putting much effort into two main priorities: equity and diversity, and decolonization and sustainability across the curriculum. Additionally, there is a drive to develop new, non-traditional programs focusing on accessibility, life-long learning, and upskilling and reskilling. Recent examples include two LOIs from the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema and a future certificate in dance therapy. Like other sectors of the university, the faculty is still recovering from Covid-19 and hopes to increase researcher support and grow research funding across the faculty.

Reports

10. Graduate Curriculum Committee Update
Rachel Berger, Associate Dean, Academic Programs and Development

Dr Rachel Berger provided Council members with a glimpse of GCC's work in the coming academic year. These include the creation of meaningful professional development opportunities without comprising program rigour that are tailored to departments and faculties. She highlighted the excellent efforts of the Executive MBA with the revision of their course EMBA 625 *Business Opportunities and Cultural Immersion* which also has a strong decolonization element. The course now permits students to conduct their international work experience in the micro-economies of Canada's indigenous communities.

11. Awards Update
Mamoun Medraj, Associate Dean, Recruitment and Awards

Dr Medraj brought Council members up-to-date on our current SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR and Fonds de recherche du Québec funding status. Federal and provincial awards' results are within the expected norms with slight fluctuations as compared to recent

years. He also provided CSGS with the 2022-2023 quotas for Vanier, doctoral and master's Tri-Agency competitions.

Information

12. Council of the School of Graduate Studies

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| 12.1 | Council Members 2022-2023 | CSGS 2223 1 D3 |
| 12.2 | Membership and Powers of Council | CSGS 2223 1 D4 |

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

Other

13. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (F. Scala, I. Richmond). Carried.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2022 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in AD 311 (LOY)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies