

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

Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 10:00 am room LB 362

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: J. Beaudoin (Secretary), J. Wiercinski, P. Wood-Adams (Chair).

Voting members: O. Ait Mohamed, R. Berger, K. Boies, S. Chauhan, M. Debbabi, F. Diamantoudi, G. Dover, Y.-G. Guéhéneuc, E. Lagou, B. Nelson, P. Pawelek, D. Secko, L. Switzer, A. Youssef.

Non-Voting members: S. Sarik.

REGRETS

Voting members:, J. Berzowska, L. Franzen, A. Poteete, F. Scala, A. Soliman, A. Sinner, L. Sotelo-Castro, C. Wild.

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 and welcomed Gina Beltran, the new Graduate Academic Programs Developer. She also thanked Stephanie Sarik for her contributions to the Council as this would be her last meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (E. Diamantoudi, P. Pawelek). Carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of May 16, 2019

Moved and seconded (E. Diamantoudi, O. Ait Mohamed). Carried.

5. Chair's Remarks

5.1 School of Graduate Studies Annual Report 2018-2019

Dr Wood-Adams provided an overview of the *School of Graduate Studies Annual Report, August 2019*. Copies of the report were distributed to the members.

The Chair highlighted some of the key accomplishments of our graduate students including Adam Crane, Banting Postdoctoral Fellow, our first in NSERC; and, Diane Roberts and Suzanne Kite, two Trudeau Scholars working in Indigenous studies. She continued by sharing interesting funding opportunities including the Stand-Out Award and the Community Building Fund.

The GradProSkills program continues to grow, enrolling more participants year after year. Concordia student, Newsha Arezi, participated in our own 3-Minute Thesis competition organised by GPS and went on to win the national competition at the annual Canadian Association for Graduate Studies conference.

The Public Scholars program's third cohort is full steam ahead and the School of Graduate Studies was just about to launch the fourth competition. The School also hosted a well-attended Public Scholars alumni event for the first time.

Dr Wood-Adams touched on the School's continued efforts to recruit top students to our graduate programs by participating in international fairs, social media campaigns and other new electronic recruitment avenues. This past year Concordia graduated more research program students than any prior year.

Finally, the Chair shared some internal activities occurring at the School including a volunteering activity at the Montreal Diet Dispensary taken up by the staff of SGS and an employee of the term program aimed to recognize staff achievements.

6. Question Period

A question was raised about the possibility of thesis supervisors receiving the external examiners report in advance of the defence. The Chair confirmed that the School was in the process of investigating this change.

Consent Agenda

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| 7. | Steering Committee Members ratification | CSGS 1920 1 D1 |
| 8. | Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominees ratification | CSGS 1920 1 D2 |

Moved and seconded (E. Diamantoudi, P. Pawelek). Carried.

Presentations

9. Kristy Clarke, Manager, Academic Programs and Development
GradProSkills Strategic Plan 2019-2020

Dr Wood-Adams welcomed Ms Clarke who provided members with a brief history of the GradProSkills program now in its eighth year, having been established in 2011. At that time, Concordia was one of the first universities to have professional development opportunities for graduate students. Today nearly all of our sister institutions have followed suit with their own programs.

Ms Clarke explained that the program underwent, for the first time since its inception, a reflective exercise which included input from focus groups and the GradProSkills Advisory Board. It revealed that about a quarter of graduate students participate in various GradProSkills workshops and activities. One of the objectives identified in the review was to continue enrolment growth and to capture a greater sample of students. Also resulting from the exercise, were new guiding principles and a new statement of purpose.

As an additional note, the *Association francophone pour le savoir* (Acfas), in collaboration with GradProSkills and Hospitality, would be holding its annual *Journées de la relève en recherche* at Concordia, a first for our institution.

Information

10. Update: Revisions to Progress Reports

Dr Pawelek informed Council members that a major revision to the online progress reports was underway, due to roll out for the Winter term. The key objectives of the process was to ensure greater confidentiality of the supervisor and the student, to streamline the questions, and to allow students and/or supervisors to flag the Graduate Program Director or the Department Chair. Dr Pawelek thanked the working group for their efforts in realizing these changes.

11. Council of the School of Graduate Studies

11.1 Council Membership 2019-2020 CSGS 1920 1 D3

11.2 Powers of Council CSGS 1920 1 D4

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

12. Call for Honorary Degree nominations CSGS 1920 1 D5

The above documents were distributed to Council members for their information. Members were asked to contact Danielle Tessier, Associate Secretary-General, for further details.

Other Next Meeting: November 11, 2019

13. Adjournment of the Open Session moved and seconded (E. Diamantoudi, B. Nelson).

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies