

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

**December 14, 2020 at 10:00 am via Zoom**

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: J. Beaudoin (Secretary), G. Carr, E. Diamantoudi (Chair).

Voting members: M. Aubin, A. Basyouni, R. Berger, K. Boies, S. Chauhan, A. Dolatabadi, G. Dover, Y.-G. Guéhéneuc, D. Howes, E. Lagou, L. Letourneau, B. Nelson, P. Pawelek, T. Roy, D. Secko, E. Shihab, A. Sinner, A. Soliman, L. Sotelo-Castro, MJ Thompson.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles, W. Cheaib.

REGRETS

Voting members: D. Bowen, M. Frank, S. Han, F. Scala, L. Switzer, R. Waldie.

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (P. Pawelek, A. Dolatabadi). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of October 15, 2020

Moved and seconded (G. Dover, B. Nelson). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair congratulated Council members on a successful Winter term despite the many challenges and occasional glitches. Graduate enrolments were holding steady, the number of service request numbers remained in line with previous years, and we

were successful in paying over 150 students all over the globe. The School held two well-attended information sessions for students, with three more planned.

Dr Diamantoudi also reported on an upcoming changing of the guard, as Dr Ali Dolatabadi would be leaving his position of Associate Dean, Recruitment and Awards and Concordia to pursue a new chapter in his career at the University of Toronto.

## 5. President's Remarks

The Chair welcomed President Carr to the Council. Dr Carr briefly touched on the main themes of the recent town hall meetings and, before opening up the floor to questions, offered his gratitude to all of those who work in graduate studies. Graduate students were some of the happiest to see labs open again and are one of the largest groups of the university community physically present on campus.

Open House was a phenomenal success with the largest number of attendees ever, from 109 countries. Opportunity is promising for Canadian institutions as application numbers remain strong for future admissions, contrary to the decline of international student interest experienced in certain other countries.

## 6. Question Period

In response to a question about possible reasons for Concordia's recent success in QS and the Times Higher Education rankings, Dr Carr evoked our strong programming, our flourishing and diverse research profile, and our unique niche areas. He further noted that Concordia top ranked in two field aspects of the Times study in the world: climate and energy, and smart/sustainable cities.

A Council member asked if there would be any change in financial support available to PhD students from abroad. President Carr commended Dean Diamantoudi's strong advocacy for graduate students and pointed out that over the last ten years, the largest share of the university's increases in spending from operating funds has been dedicated to graduate student support. Again this year, despite the deficit, the university would be investing another \$2M in teaching assistantships. In addition, the Capital Campaign was doing very well—the majority of our philanthropic intake goes towards student support.

Dr Carr touched on some positive outcomes in response to a question about how the pandemic may shape our future. The university plans to conduct a 'lessons learned' exercise and to have a wide ranging conversation about the community's observations focusing on some of the operational adaptations that we could maintain in the future such as working from home, alternative delivery of courses, virtual collaboration, and adapting our technology to meet changing needs. Our future decisions will need to be mindful of this in our reshaping of the campus in the future.

## Consent Agenda

7. Faculty Tribunal Pool Nominees ratification

CSGS 2021 2 D1

Moved and seconded (P. Pawelek., A. Dolatabadi). Carried.

## Presentation

8. *Concordia PhD Career Outcomes*

Gina Beltrán, Graduate Academic Programs Developer

Brad Nelson, Associate Dean, Academic Programs and Development

Dr Nelson requested speaking privileges for Dr Beltrán who proceeded to provide Council members with an overview of the project. Global Impact was a 2020 initiative led by the School of Graduate Studies focusing on the career outcomes of the PhDs who earned their degree at Concordia between 2009 and 2019. The study successfully identified the career development and current employment of 92% of PhD graduates. The results told a compelling story of individuals pursuing successful careers in all sectors of society. Contributing to universities, hospitals, governments, small businesses, multinational corporations and the arts scenes in Canada and around the world, they are using their knowledge and skills in diverse and innovative ways.

A Council member inquired if the study took into account unemployment data, Dr Beltrán explained that such information was difficult to track as most of the profiles studied did not openly disclose such details. However, post-2019 did mark a change in this behaviour as the stigma of unemployment seemed to be less important. Another question was raised about the changing job market and how it played into the study's findings. Dr Beltrán noted that while there was some consideration in this regard, a more thorough investigation would be undertaken in phase two of the project.

Dr Nelson thanked the Council for their input and stated that the purpose of the project was to provide the graduate studies community with the necessary data and tools to make informed decisions, as it is incumbent on the university to prepare PhDs for more than one career path. Dean Diamantoudi closed by inviting members to consult the [Tableau dashboard](#) for more comprehensive details.

## Information

9. School of Graduate Studies Annual Report 2019-2020

<https://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/sqs/docs/administration/SGS-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

The above document was provided to Council members for their information.

10. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (A. Dolatabadi, K. Boies). Carried.