

***Revised* MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF  
THE COUNCIL OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
OPEN SESSION**

**Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 10:00 am in LB 362**

PRESENT

Ex-officio members: P. Pawelek (Acting Chair), R. Johal, D. Lafrance (Secretary).

Voting members: A. Akgunduz (for A. Aghdam), R. Berger, K. Boies, A. Fattoum-Guedri, M. Medraj, D. Raju, A. Salas, F. Scala, A. Sinner, M. Sussman, MJ Thompson, S. Ullah, F. Yuen, M. Zaare.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles.

Guests: N. Butt, D. Cossette, E. MacFadden.

REGRETS

Voting members: C. An, D. Bowen, I. Contreras, Y. Gélinas, D. Howes, X. Huang, S. Moritz, I. Richmond, A. Soliman, 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. Approval of the amended Agenda

Moved and seconded (M. Medraj, S. Ullah). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of November 18, 2022

Moved and seconded (MJ Thompson, F. Yuen). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

There were no Chair's Remarks.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

**Presentation**

6. Budget Discussion  
*Denis Cossette, Chief Financial Officer*

Mr Cossette provided an overview of the document ‘An Ambitious and Responsible Budget’ that fuelled the Fall 2022 Budget Conversations. He outlined the university’s current budget situation in the shadows of Covid and as we face demographic changes over the coming years which will likely result in lower admissions. He continued by detailing some notable investments made in operations including salary increases, new software acquisitions and investment in academic and research activities, to name a few. As we look to the future, priorities for the university include teaching and learning, research and innovation, the School of Health and sustainability, all the while keeping prudence, continuity, agility and long-term financial sustainability at the forefront of our decision making.

In response to a question regarding the political climate in the province, Mr Cossette stated that anglophone and francophone institutions are facing the same decrease in enrolments although international student pools do tend to differ.

Another member questioned the university’s deficit stance among other institutions in Quebec. Excluding McGill who benefits from a large endowment, Concordia’s deficit is less significant than that of sister establishments.

Mr Cossette concluded that the quality of our programs and professors coupled with attractive funding packages will be key in maintaining competitiveness in the graduate education market. Our future and long-term financial health will be based on a moderate approach with a balanced budget that continues to invest in our projects and initiatives.

**Business**

7. Proposal to revise microprogram approval procedures                      CSGS 2223 3 D1

Moved and seconded (R. Berger, S. Ullah). Carried.

The School proposed to delegate final approval authority for graduate microprogram proposals to an augmented Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC). Currently, GCC sends new program proposals, including graduate microprograms, to CSGS, which then submits them to the Academic Programs Committee (APC) upon approval by Council. Instead, GCC will carry out the work required to revise and approve graduate

microprogram proposals from the Faculties and send them directly to APC, without passing the proposals to CSGS for approval. GCC would instead send a report of its activities, including a list of approved proposals, to CSGS.

**Other**

8. Adjournment

Moved and seconded (F. Scala, A. Fattoum-Guedri). Carried.

Next Meeting: February 3, 2023 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm in LB 362

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan  
Recording Secretary  
Council of the School of Graduate Studies