

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

Friday, February 3, 2023 at 10:00 am in LB 362

PRESENT

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

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

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles.

Guests: H. Adams-Robinette, K. Belloso, G. Beltrán, E. MacFadden, S. Mikaelian, C. Raso.

REGRETS

Voting members: C. An, D. Bowen, L. Caminati, Y. Gélinas, X. Huang, S. Moritz, I. Richmond, A. Soliman, C. Wilds, F. Yuen.

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 (P. Pawelek, R. Berger). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of December 15, 2022

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

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair announced several upcoming important dates including Open House on February 18th, the launch of the second edition of the very successful PhD Career Connect program on February 13th, and the Public Scholars call for application later in the month. She further noted that the CRM data for this winter term's Open House indicated that approximately half of the respondents had already applied to Concordia, suggesting that the event would be a conversion opportunity and an ideal occasion for departments to increase their presence.

5. Question Period

In response to a question about ensuring the quality of applicant pools, Dr Diamantoudi stated that SGS would be conducting targeted advertisement campaigns, focusing particularly on France and Belgium. She also remarked that the recruitment team would be enlisting graduate student ambassadors to work alongside recruiters.

Discussion

6. Strategic Research Plan CSGS 2223 4 D1
Heather Adams-Robinette, Director, VPRGS Sector
Shoghig Mikaelian, Senior Advisor, Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects
Office of the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies

The Strategic Research Plan 2023-2028 is a guide, mandated by the tri-council research programs, for the focused growth of research activity over the next five years, concentrating on major existing and emerging research themes. The university is committed to achieving smart, sustainable, and resilient growth and global leadership in research innovation to tackle local, national, and global challenges. The overarching goals are to provide students with a diverse, inclusive, and safe learning, research, and work environment. This present plan is the culmination of extensive brainstorming in the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies (OVPRGS) as well as with the Associate Deans, Research in the faculties.

Ms Adams-Robinette and Ms Mikaelian provided an overview of the plan, its purpose and methodology before requesting comments and questions from Council members. There was some discussion about areas of improvement and clarification. The membership was invited to submit any further remarks to the OVPRS.

Presentation

7. Postdoctoral Studies Review
Faye Diamantoudi, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies
Donald Lafrance, Director, School of Graduate Studies
Cynthia Raso, Manager, Graduate Awards and Postdoctoral Studies

Dr Diamantoudi and Mr Lafrance together provided an overview of the findings of an initial data-driven study of the postdoctoral fellow situation at Concordia. The presentation outlined the objectives and structure of the Horizon Postdoctoral Fellowship program as well as its effects on overall PDF growth at the university. The results of a survey of stakeholders in the Horizon program (PIs, current and former Horizon PDFs) demonstrated a positive experience on the part of participants. A second survey of non-Horizon PDFs revealed a less productive outcome and identified areas of improvement. Members were asked to reflect on these themes and provide feedback to SGS.

Other

8. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting: March 24, 2023 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm in LB 362

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies