

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

**November 2, 2023 at 10:00 am in AD 311 (Loyola)**

PRESENT

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

Voting members: E. Adams, A. Aghdam, R. Berger, L. Blair, L. Caminati, R. Lakshmanan, C. Lesage, W. Linds, M. Medraj, M. Packirisamy, P. Pawelek, D. Raju, A. Salas, F. Scala, MJ Thompson, S. Ullah, F. Yuen, M. Zaare.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles.

Guests: N. Butt, E. MacFadden, K. Walsh.

REGRETS

Voting members: C. An, A. Fattoum-Guedri, X. Huang, L. Jeancolas, M. Steinberg, P. Stoyanov, M. Sussman, 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 Agenda

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

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of October 6, 2023

Moved and seconded (L. Blair, M. Zaare). Carried.

4. Chair's Remarks

Dr Diamantoudi deferred her remarks to the presentation.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

## Presentation

6. SGS's Action Plan – In response to the new government regulations  
*Faye Diamantoudi, Dean of Graduate Studies*

The Quebec government's upcoming tuition and funding changes for non-Quebec students are expected to impact Concordia's graduate programs. The School's plan aims to counteract potential decline in enrolment by launching initiatives aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of programs.

Short-term efforts include diverting recruitment efforts, increasing French-language learning, and restricting transfers between course-based and thesis programs.

Medium-term initiatives include converting course-based programs to thesis-based, creating and promoting pathways to graduate studies, and tracking career outcomes. Programs that already incorporate significant research components and rely heavily on students from outside Quebec can be transformed into thesis-based ones. Integrated master's programs, doctoral fast-track programs, and direct-entry doctoral programs can help students fast-track their graduate studies.

Long-term initiatives include increasing partnerships and expanding programming, working with Concordia International to build transfer opportunities and joint/double degree agreements. Short graduate programs, such as microprograms, are crucial for working professionals, and potential and existing graduate students.

The action plan is currently a living document, and regulatory details are yet to be provided by the ministry. The plan will be effectively disseminated to key stakeholders within Concordia's community.

## Reports

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

Dr Rachel Berger provided Council members with an overview of a recent revamp of the Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development/Développement économique communautaire offered by the School of Community and Public Affairs.

The diploma is offered in English and French in alternating years. The changes are the result of a two-year recrafting and represent a good model for other units wishing to undertake similar modifications.

**Other**

11. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting: December 1, 2023 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in EV 2.309

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan  
Recording Secretary  
Council of the School of Graduate Studies