

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

October 6, 2023 at 10:00 am in EV 2.184

PRESENT

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

Voting members: A. Aghdam, C. An, R. Berger, L. Blair, L. Caminati, A. Fattoum-Guedri, X. Huang, L. Jeancolas, R. Lakshmanan, C. Lesage, W. Linds, M. Medraj, M. Packirisamy, P. Pawelek, D. Raju, A. Salas, F. Scala, P. Stoyanov, M. Sussman, MJ Thompson, S. Ullah, F. Yuen, M. Zaare.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles.

Guests: N. Butt, E. MacFadden.

REGRETS

Voting members: E. Adams, X. Huang, 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. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair conducted a tour de table.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved and seconded (A. Aghdam, A. Salas). Carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of May 18, 2023

Moved and seconded (A. Salas, M. Zaare). Carried.

5. Chair's Remarks

Dr Diamantoudi gave a presentation to members on the School's various units' – student affairs, awards, recruitment, academic programs, GradProSkills – recent and upcoming activities and projects. These include the review of the Graduate Calendar and admission letters, the new Graduate Ambassadors Program, the development of a Microprogram in Sustainability and a Strategic Plan for SGS. She also provided an overview of the functionality of the AACR (Applications, Admissions, Confirmations, Registrations) Report which permits users to obtain real-time data.

6. Question Period

In response to a question about whether the province will be restricting admissions, Dr Diamantoudi explained that the government intends to institute parameters around eligibility for fee waivers, not admissions per se.

Consent Agenda

7. Steering Committee Members ratification CSGS 2324 1 D1

Moved and seconded (A. Fattoum-Guedri, P. Pawelek). Carried.

Faculty Updates

8. *Amir Aghdam, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science*

Dr Aghdam outlined the upcoming initiatives, priorities and challenges facing the Gina Cody School. Projects on the horizon include tri-council funding workshops facilitated by SGS's Cecilia Kramar, two top student events per year, Zoom meetings between prospective students and GPDs, as well as the creation of a unified timeline for students including milestone reminders. There is also a new joint program and microprogram under development.

Cédric Lesage, Associate Dean, Research and Research Programs, John Molson School of Business

Dr Lesage provided Council members with a brief overview of JMSB's recent undertakings. He reminded CSGS that all the MSc and PhD program had recently undergone a thorough curricular review; the faculty is now working towards implementation of those changes and ensure that the rollout is smooth. JMSB plans to implement several recruitment measures including revising certain admission requirements, implementing rolling applications, and sending acceptance and rejection letters more quickly. They are also looking at soliciting applicants from other disciplines in their sister faculties.

Francesca Scala, *Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Arts and Science*

Dr Scala reminded CSGS that Arts and Science has nearly 60 graduate programs – while this diversity of offerings is a strength, its breadth also represents administrative challenges. The faculty supplies all these various units with support in admissions, enrolment and recruitment. Arts and Science has also run successful grant writing workshops with Cecilia Kramar and continues to provide English writing assistance. On the recruitment front, the faculty will be aggressively seeking out PhD fast-tracking opportunities amongst its students. This year will also see the second annual graduate research photo contest.

MJ Thompson, *Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Fine Arts*

Dr Thompson noted that Fine Arts had released a new strategic plan last year which is available for consultation on their website. Fine Arts is putting much effort into two main priorities: equity and diversity, and sustainability. Additionally, the faculty is focusing on small changes that can make a big impact to reduce bureaucracy, and support departments and faculty members. The faculty is happy to embark on an ambitious recruitment plan this year as well as facilitating the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema's expansion.

Reports

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

Dr Rachel Berger provided Council members with a sneak peek of GCC's work to come in the new academic year. This includes the creation of several microprograms across the faculties and a strong push for the inclusion of meaningful professional development opportunities incorporated into the curriculum. The online, asynchronous one-credit courses, GPSS 601 and 602, have been well received by students and SGS will offer two additional courses this year: GSPD 603 *Career Exploration* and GSPD 604 *Furthering Your Professional Skills*.

Information

10. Council of the School of Graduate Studies
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| 10.1 | Council Members 2023-2024 | CSGS 2324 1 D2 |
| 10.2 | Membership and Powers of Council | CSGS 2324 1 D3 |

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

Other

11. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting: November 2, 2023 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in AD 311 (LOY)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies