SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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

March 20, 2025 at 10:00 am in AD 311 (Loyola) or https://concordia-ca.zoom.us/j/81617852624

PRESENT

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

Voting members: A. Aghdam, R. Berger, G. Dover, A. Fattoum-Guedri, X. Huang, C. Lesage, W. Linds, M. Medraj, F. Scala, A. Soliman, P. Stoyanov, M. Sussman, E. Tsabary, S. Ullah, F. Yuen, M. Zaare.

Non-Voting members: S. De Celles, D. Lafrance (Secretary), M. Jordan (Recording Secretary).

Guests: E. MacFadden.

REGRETS

Voting members: E. Adams, J. Agbonhese, K. Dizon, F. Grond, N. M. Ilyas, J. Neves, M. Salazkina, 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 (R. Berger, G. Dover). Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting of December 12, 2024

   Moved and seconded (M. Medraj, G. Dover). Carried.

4. Chair’s Remarks

The Chair reserved her remarks for item 6.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

Presentations

6. Admissions and International Student Quotas
Faye Diamantoudi, Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr Diamantoudi provided Council members with updates on admissions data and international student quota information. As of March 16th, acceptance rates were 56.6% for course-based programs, 41.6% for Master's thesis programs, and 37.9% for PhD programs. The provincial government has allocated Concordia 5,233 CAQ application places, covering new admissions, students switching program cycles, and permit renewals.

The Chair identified potential admission caps if the quota is reached, impacts on current students needing renewal, and lost opportunities for strong candidates. She recommended verifying admission terms before issuing offers, halting Summer 2025 international admissions, and also noted that Iranian students can no longer be admitted for Winter 2026. She emphasized the importance of targeting students with expiring study permits (especially PhD and Master's thesis students) and encouraged timely degree completion or early study permit renewal, keeping in mind that each renewal reduces available quota spots for new admissions. Additionally, Dr Diamantoudi recommended admitting promising undergraduate applicants directly to the PhD and relying on downgrading, should students falter.

Other

8. Adjournment

Next Meeting: May 8, 2025 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in EV 2.309

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jordan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Graduate Studies

Current Winter 2025 Calendar Text	Proposed Text
Language proficiency requirements English is the main language of instruction at Concordia University. Applicants who meet one of the following three conditions will be exempted from the English language proficiency test requirement: • Completion of a minimum of three full- years of study at the undergraduate or graduate level at an accredited university in one of the following countries; • Completion of a Quebec Diploma of Collegial Studies (DEC) and a university degree at a Quebec university; • For JMSB applicants applying to the Executive MBA program, a minimum of three years' full-time work experience in an English milieu, and a successful personal interview. Applicants, regardless of citizenship, who do not meet one of the three conditions outlined above and whose primary language is not English, will be required to provide proof of English proficiency prior to their admission to Concordia University.	**Language proficiency requirements** English is the main language of instruction at Concordia University however French is also recognized. Applicants who meet one of the following conditions will be exempted from the English language proficiency test requirement: • Completion of a minimum of three full- years of study at the undergraduate or graduate level at an accredited university in one of the following countries, where English is the primary language of instruction. • Completion of a minimum of four years of study in a secondary institution where the main language of instruction is English. • Completion of a minimum of three full- years of study at the undergraduate or graduate level at an accredited university in one of the following countries, where French is the primary language of instruction. Applicants, regardless of citizenship, who do not meet one of the above conditions outlined above, will be required to provide proof of English proficiency (language test or attestation of instruction in English) prior to their admission to Concordia University. For information on the minimum scores required English language proficiency testing please consult the Concordia website. In all cases, the University reserves the right to require a proficiency test if it is deemed necessary

Rationale

Concordia University already offers flexibility for students to complete assignments and exams in French. Moreover, Concordia already exempts graduates of Francophone Quebec Universities from English language proficiency test. As such, requiring an English entrance exam creates an unnecessary barrier for prospective students from France and Francophone Belgium whose main language of instruction is French.