REMAINDER OF SUMMER

I will be in the office on Wednesdays only for the remainder of the summer. If you need to have personal contact with me, then try to schedule something for this day. I also forgot to send this out earlier. Another newsletter is to follow soon.

PARTIAL RESULTS OF FACULTY RETREAT

School and applied child psychology program faculty had a retreat in Val David, QC on May 30 to discuss and make policy for new directions for the program. We have been working for two years on CPA accreditation. Now that accreditation is complete, it is time to move on to the next step. The most immediate issue is to improve the research productivity of students in the program. Here is your preview of the relevant changes to be implemented in the fall:

- The program encourages (but will not require) all lab supervisors to have strict research productivity criteria for receiving a satisfactory end of the year evaluation. For our lab, I have determined that this criterion is authorship or co-authorship earned on 2 papers submitted to refereed professional journals.
- All students in the program will be ranked on research productivity. The rank will be communicated in quintiles (five categories from highest to lowest with about equal number of students in each category). This ranking will appear in all letters of recommendation that are written by school psychology faculty members for field placement, funding, internships, and employment. Your annual ranking will be communicated to you in your end of the year evaluation that communicates your status in the program. This will be received in mid-August. The research ranking will first be communicated to students in August 2017.
- The rankings will be weighted by program status. i.e., more advanced students are expected to produce more than beginning students.
- Research accomplishments are ranked as follows:
  - 1st author publication in journal with impact factor > 1 (higher is better)
  - Junior author publication in journal with impact factor >1
  - 1st author on invited paper or other refereed journal article with impact factor < 1
  - Junior author publication in journal with impact factor < 1
  - Refereed book chapters
Invited reviews and national newsletter articles
- Refereed international conference presentations or posters
- Regional or non-refereed presentations or posters
- Other products can be considered on an ad hoc basis

The program will offer award and formal recognition for best published paper and highest research rank in the program.

OTHER RESULTS OF THE RETREAT

There were many things discussed. Some of those ideas will be implemented, but they have larger systemic ramifications that need to be worked through before they are announced and implemented. We have reached consensus on the following:

- Please be wary of the rumor mill. When a student does something that causes problems, they usually say, “But I heard that is how student X did it.” This is worst possible idea. Many students have seriously damaged their progress or probability of success this way. Here are examples of bad ideas:
  - Intentionally delaying receipt of the masters degree by taking an MA3 year. The MA3 year is universally bad. Doing this guarantees delayed receipt of PhD with no positive gain.
  - Spending much time gaining experience with a private practitioner or other non-university professional to “get more hours.” This is a big mistake. We have always matched APPIC interns at a higher rate than clinical or counselling programs at McGill. Internship sites know that we are a PhD program and not a PsyD program. Publications and leadership will do far more to improve your chance of an APPIC match than a few more hours in practice. Also note that the revised program has increased clinical contact hours by 200 hours for field placement with the option to add to this and added a professional experience in schools for MA2 students for even more contact hours. For students who only want to gain clinical experience and ignore research responsibilities, I can recommend many good PsyD programs for you.
  - Course selection for PhD1 students is very difficult and individualized. Please consult with your supervisor for a fully planning course selection.
- When you win a major multi-year grant, the taxpayers are paying you to support your research. If you stop producing research after winning a major award, then you could lose your funding. The program will become more vigilant in accurately completing annual reports for agencies such as CIHR/SSHRC/FQRSC.

NEW OPPORTUNITY

I review a lot of papers for journals. In order to improve scientific culture, we will begin reviewing some of these papers together. I will give folks the option to help me conduct the reviews as they come in.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If current enrolled students have not completed your GPS tracking forms, please do so immediately. Follow the GPS guidelines concerning tracking your progress towards graduation. [http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/progress](http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/progress)

As a correction the Department annual reports are due on June 30. There is certainly no problem in completing and submitting these early.

- June 1 — initial drafts of all completed MA theses are due
- June 30 — all departmental annual reports and portfolios are due

“Successful People are Simply Those with Successful Habits.” – Brian Tracy
ROLES AND NEEDS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

No one has contacted me about taking on any of the roles that I mentioned in the last newsletter. So I will be making invitations.

Contact Us

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