

Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Minutes of the meeting of the CGPS held on
Monday, March 14, 2:30 pm
James Administration Building, Room 301

Attendance:

Officers:

Josephine Nalbantoglu (Chair)
Audrey Simoneau (Acting Secretary)

Elected Members:

Natheer Alatawneh, Bianca Bourgeois (on behalf of Nancy Czemmell), Hao Yu Chen, Benoît Côté, Samer Faraj, Pengfei Guan, Louis Houle, Cindy Kim, Marta Kobiela (on behalf of Gordon Bloom), Naguib Mechawar, Monzur Murshed, Meyer Nahon, Laura Nilson, Milica Popovich, Andrea Price, Vijaya Raghavan, Aimee K. Ryan, René Turcotte (on behalf of Dennis Jensen), Lena Weman Ericsson

Ex-Officio:

France Bouthillier, Alison Crump, Devin Mills, Elisa Pylkkanen, Cindy Smith, David Syncox (on behalf of Laura Winer)

Regrets:

Robin Beech, Derek Bowie, Maggie Do Couto, Peter Grutter, Jean-Jacques Lebrun, Michael Van Dussen, Elaine Weiner

Absent:

Sébastien Breau, Lara Braitstein, Prashant Keshavmurthy, Stephanie Law

Guest(s):

Dr. Gilles Paradis, Chair of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health
Prof. Antonia Maioni, Department of Political Science

Order was called at 2:33 pm.

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed that with 19 voting members, we had a quorum (which is 14 voting members).

129 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion was made by Hao Yu Chen, and seconded by Aimee K. Ryan, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

130 Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2016

CGPS.15.26– MinFeb22_16

Motion was made by Vijaya Raghavan, and seconded by Pengfei Guan, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

131 Business Arising

For Approval

New Programs:

M. Sc. Epidemiology – Non-Thesis - Pharmacoepidemiology CGPS.15.27_MSc_Epid_NT_Pharmacoepi

Presented by: Dr. Gilles Paradis
Chair of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health

In 2014, the Department of Epidemiology received an endowment allowing them to recruit a Chair in the area of Pharmacoepidemiology.

Dr. Gilles Paradis explained that Pharmacoepidemiology was the study of the uses and long term effects of drugs at the population level. Over the years, the Department has been developing expertise in this area. There is a great demand, all around Canada and beyond, for this type of training.

The new options proposed by the Department of Epidemiology provide coursework in Pharmacoepidemiology for existing Master and Ph.D. in Epidemiology.

The Master option is more technical than the Ph.D. option, which is focused more on research.

During the question period, Ms. Cindy Smith asked GPS about the number of credits (48 credits) in the Master's option because the norm is 45 credits. Dean Nalbantoglu and Associate Dean France Bouthillier explained that since there is no undergraduate program in Pharmacoepidemiology, the Master's option has more credits than usual.

As requested by the Council members, the consultation reports with the Department of Pharmacology will be submitted as an Addendum.

Motion was made by Samer Faraj, and seconded by Devin Mills. The approval of the new program was voted unanimously.

Ph.D. Epidemiology –Pharmacoepidemiology CGPS.15.28_Ph.D_Epid_Pharmacoepi

Presented by: Dr. Gilles Paradis
Chair of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health

The Ph.D. option in Pharmacoepidemiology will develop conceptual, analytic and research skills of the students.

During the question period, Professor Samer Faraj asked Dr. Paradis if the students who graduate from the new Ph.D. option would be competitive with other graduates from the top universities elsewhere. Dr. Paradis explained that two years ago, the Department of Epidemiology was evaluated and the report ranked McGill in the top 5 in North America for Epidemiology and Biostatistics. The expertise in Pharmacoepidemiology is mostly concentrated in North America with a few additional programs in the UK. As such, McGill is widely recognized in this field.

The proposed option will draw from a total of about 200 graduate students in the Department. With this option, Dr. Paradis expects to initially recruit roughly 6 to 12 graduate students.

Dean Nalbantoglu expressed her concerns regarding the number of courses in the proposal. Dr. Paradis responded that at the Ph.D. level, graduate students will do a year and half of courses and then, they will do the comprehensive examination. They also have a protocol development course, followed by and 2 years of data collection, and data analysis. The time completion is roughly 5 years at the moment.

Motion was made by Samer Faraj, and seconded by Devin Mills. The approval of the new program was voted unanimously.

Master of Public Policy (MPP) – Non-Thesis

CGPS.15.29-MA_PubPol(MPP)_NT

Presented by: Prof. Antonia Maioni
Professor at the Department of Political Science

The Master of Public policy is a new program that was designed as a professional program in the Faculty of Arts but with interdisciplinary input. The Dean noted that the School of Public Policy will be officially announced shortly by the Provost.

The School of Public Policy (SPP) will have 3 main components:

- Research;
- Outreach;
- Teaching (the MPP is the first part of that teaching component).

The SPP wanted to offer something that will substantively differ from the landscape of the existing Public Policy programs.

As Professor Maioni explained, the School will be located in the Faculty of Arts but will not be exclusively for students in the Faculty of Arts or students in Social Science and Humanities (SSH).

The program has 45 credits, which will be taken over 11 months, like a “one year boot camp”.

The program will have 3 main components:

- Credit courses taken in Fall and Winter;
- Policy laboratory which is a month-long intensive program (May) which is a themed project program;
- Internship component (Summer).

The program will be open to 20 to 25 students (approximately) each year.

Professor Maioni explained that after graduation, students will have the opportunity to work in many Public Policy areas.

During the question period, Mr. Devin Mills asked why the School was schedule to start in 2018 instead of 2017. Professor Maioni explained that they needed to hire the Director and faculty members who will be appointed to the school itself.

Professor Samer Faraj asked what differentiates this program of Public Policy from others. Professor Maioni explained that the program was created to develop transversal skills for people who want to work in Public Policy. The idea was to allow the students, once enrolled, to specialize in one of the five subfields (environment, health care, etc.). She

expects that students from other programs will be attracted to take this one year program as a complement to their graduate degree.

All the required courses are new and a few of the complementary courses already exist. The courses have been proposed and will be submitted soon to SCTP.

Council members asked to see the consultations report for the new courses. Dean Nalbantoglu reviewed with the members the Approval path for CGPS, SCTP/ES, APC and Senate.

Motion was made by Samer Faraj, and seconded by Devin Mills. The approval of the new program was voted in favor by 16 Council member (quorum) via electronic vote.

132 For Information:

CGPS Report 4

CGPS.15.04-Report 4_2015.04

Minor/Moderate Revisions to Graduate Programs including Retirements

The Report on Minor and Moderate revisions to graduate programs was presented for information.

There was no further discussion.

Cotutelle (Joint Thesis Supervision)

Presentation

CGPS.15.30_Cotutelle_Presentation

Presented by: France Bouthillier
Associate Dean at Graduate Postdoctoral Studies

Cotutelle is an agreement on joint supervision at the doctoral level. Such agreements can be entered into between two cooperating institutions, a Ph.D. student and his/her co-supervisors.

Ms. Cindy Smith from SCTP wanted clarifications on the approval path. Associate Dean France Bouthillier responded that the Memorandum of Agreement was already approved by CRÉPUQ in 1996 and any new agreement is approved by Legal Department at McGill. Cotutelle was also approved by Senate few years ago (September 2013).

Professor Samer Faraj requested to have more informations on how a cotutelle might improve a graduate student in their studies.

McGill has started receiving more requests from students and/or partnerships for Cotutelles. It is not imposed on GPS; rather, requests for Cotutelles are brought to GPS from supervisors who see this as an opportunity to give their graduate students access to international research collaborations.

Memorandum Québec/France:

CGPS.15.31-Memo_Cotutelle_FRANCE

Presented by: France Bouthillier
Associate Dean at Graduate Postdoctoral Studies

Council members would like to see the documentation if possible.

Motion was made by Devin Mills, and seconded by Louis Houle. The approval of the Cotutelle (Joint Thesis Supervision) Agreements were voted in favor by 18 members and 1 was against.

133 Councilors' Forum

Responsibility for Degree Audits

Proposed by: Prof. Meyer Nahon
Mechanical Engineering Department.

The Degree Evaluation tool summarizes the progress toward the completion of the students' program requirements, and lists the courses they've taken, the courses they've registered for, the requirements of their programs, and what they still need to do in order to graduate.

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed that the responsibility for degree audit belongs first, to the Department and then, to GPS (Thesis Office) for final approval of graduation. Tracking student progress means making sure that they fulfill the program/degree requirements, and the Departments are the best positioned to do this. Most of the time, the Departments do the Degree Audit but the Thesis Office looks at it too.

133 Other Business

None

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 p.m.