![McGill Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies logo]

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

James Administration Building, Room 301   Date: Monday, October 31, 2016   Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For Council members' attendance list, please see last page.

Order was called at 2:35 p.m.
Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

1.0   Adoption of the Agenda   CGPS-AGD_2016.10.31
Motion was made by Samer Faraj, and seconded by Marta Kobiela, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2.0   Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting   CGPS-MoM_2016.09.12
Motion was made by Lena Weman Ericsson, and seconded by Samer Faraj, to approve the minutes of Monday, September 12, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

Business Arising

For Approval

There was no business for approval.

For Information

3.0   For Information

3.1   Presentation on Everspring by Laura Winer, Director of Teaching and Learning Services (TLS)
(Appendix A)

At the September 12th CGPS meeting, Council members raised questions and concerns regarding McGill's new online education partner, Everspring. Laura Winer, one of the members of the selection committee, was invited to present to Council. Her presentation provided information on online graduate education and confirmed that McGill sees an opportunity to take a leadership position in this area. Discussions began two years ago at a Deans' Working Group, where the Provost, the Principal and the Deans supported the idea of promoting online education at McGill.   Please consult Appendix A for more information.

During the question period, Council members raised the following issues: 1) tuition, 2) access and support to students, 3) distinction on a student's transcript between online education and education on campus. Regarding tuition, the online programs will be self-funded (similar to programs in Management). The initial phase will target graduate certificates, graduate diplomas and non-research masters only. The selection committee will work closely with McGill stakeholders in the process of developing these programs to ensure that all resources are accessible to students. Lastly, it was noted that McGill does not make a distinction between online and on campus education on transcripts. There was no further discussion.

3.2   Report #02   CGPS-RPT_2016.10.31
Minor/Moderate Revisions and Programs Retirement [including Low-Enrolment/Obsolete]
There was no further discussion.

Councilors' Forum

4.0   Item proposed by Nicholas Dunn from the Post-Graduate Students' Society regarding the Graduate Milestones program

Following an item proposed by Mr. Nicholas Dunn, Dean Josephine Nalbantoglu presented the context and history behind the Graduate Milestones Project. In 2013, it was reported that degree completion time for McGill thesis-based graduate students did not reflect the university's academic excellence, and that tracking and monitoring of progress toward degree completion was generally ad-hoc and often poorly communicated with students. Dean Nalbantoglu's predecessor, Martin Kreiswirth, consulted the graduate community who were in favor of developing a central solution for milestone tracking. IT has responded to this need and will deliver a solution that is expected to be launched for Summer 2017 (at the latest September 2017) as a pilot for Master's thesis and Ph.D. programs, and eventually Master's non-thesis programs.

Dean Nalbantoglu explained that the implementation of this central tool will enable the management and tracking of graduate student progress towards major program milestones and degree completion. The benefits include increased student satisfaction, improved ability for supervisors and academic units to manage and track student progress, and improved accessibility to quality data about graduate students for informed decision making. Finally, the new system will eliminate the use of alternative methods (e.g. multiple Excel spreadsheets) to track graduate student progress. Dean Nalbantoglu added that students will now have the opportunity to see their progress, which is not possible with other systems currently in place (such as the GTS tracking tool). There was spirited discussion about the need to impose yet another tool to be mastered by staff in graduate units. Student members of Council were supportive of the need for the Graduate Milestones Project and generally positive about the developments to date. There will be further updates about the project in the spring.

Other Business

None.

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

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*Delegate

Q*	Name	Faculty/Departement	Present	Regrets	Absent
1	Emily Carson	Arts	x		
2	Thomas Georg Soehl	Arts	x		
3	Elaine Weiner	Arts			x
4	Jennifer Fishman	Medicine		x	
5	Naguib Mechawar (**D. Bastien**)	Medicine	x		
6	Aimee K. Ryan	Medicine			x
7	Sébastien Breau (**O.T. Coomes**)	Science	x		
8	Eyal Goren	Science	x		
9	Lauren Chapman	Science	x		
10	Ashraf A. Ismail	Agricultural, Environmental & Science			x
11	Vijaya Raghavan (**A.S. Akbarzadeh**)	Agricultural, Environmental & Science	x		
12	Dennis Jensen	Education	x		
13	Marta Kobiela	Education	x		
14	Benoît Champagne	Engineering		x	
15	Milica Popovich	Engineering	x		
16	Monzur Murshed	Dentistry			x
17	Nancy Czemmel	Law			x
18	Samer Faraj	Management	x		
19	Lena Weman Ericsson	Music	x		
20	Nicholas Dunn	Academic Affairs Officer - PGSS	x		
21	Tetyana Krupiy	Postdoctoral fellow	x		
22	Thomas Colbourne	Graduate Student - Arts	x		
23	Hao Yu Chen	Graduate Student - Medicine	x		
24	Julia Gjebic	Graduate Student - Music	x		
25	Victor Frankel	Graduate Student - Science	x		
-	Jill Boruff	Libraries (ex-officio)	x		
-	Anne McKinney (Rosie Goldstein)	Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (ex-officio) (delegate)	x		
-	David Syncox **and** Laura Winer	Director (delegate) - TLS (ex-officio)	x		
Members with voice but no vote					
-	Josephine Nalbantoglu	Dean of GPS - Chair	x		
-	Robin Beech	Associate Dean - GPS			x
-	Patricia Kirkpatrick	Associate Dean - GPS	x		
-	Jean-Jacques Lebrun	Associate Dean - GPS	x		
-	Elisa Pylkkanen	Director - GPS	x		
-	Maggie Do Couto	Academic Affairs Officer - GPS	x		
-	Alison Crump	Academic Projects Manager - GPS	x		
-	Sabine Dhir	Interdisciplinary Programs Officer - GPS	x		
-	Cindy Smith	SCTP Secretary		x	
-	Audrey Simoneau	Committee Secretary	x		

*Q = quorum (40%) = 10 on 25 members - Article 6.3.1 from Statutes of McGill University.

An ex-officio member is not counted in calculating the quorum, but he/she has the right to vote. - Robert's Rules of Order

Online Graduate Education at McGill

CGPS (Council – Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies)

31 October 2016

Laura Winer, Director, TLS

TLS

Online graduate education

- Online education is an opportunity for McGill to
  - further expand our influence and leadership position
  - be an innovator among the highest ranked universities in the world
  - provide increased accessibility for students
    - serve our alumni
    - respond to global directions in teaching and learning
    - jobs increasingly require the ability to use and learn through technology
  - create new revenue stream and markets

Context behind the initiative

- Initial discussions began at a Dean's Working Group
- The idea was supported by the Deans, the Provost, and the Principal
- A year of preliminary meetings followed with representatives from all Faculties
- Faculty representatives attended meetings with all potential vendors

Based on this process

- Three Faculties identified as being very interested to begin developing online graduate education:
  - Faculty of Education
  - Faculty of Law
  - Faculty of Medicine

Regulation regarding credit

Regardless of course modality, no course offered by McGill University and approved by APPC in the name of Senate can be disallowed for credit in a program of study on the sole basis of its mode of delivery.

Approved APPC 31st May 2001, Senate 10th October 2001 (337th Report, D01-07)

Call for Tender – Spring 2016

Selection Committee

- **Alain Breuleux**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education
- **Demetra Kafantaris**, Senior Advisor to Vice-Principal of Health Affairs & Dean, Faculty of Medicine
- **Laura Winer**, Director, TLS
- **Patrick Devey**, External consultant

Selection Criteria

- Corporate profile
- Proposed solution
- Business plan
- Security data and system requirement
- Risk assessment
- Account team and technology validation and evaluation

Everspring

http://www.everspringpartners.com/

Provide full-service, customized online educational solutions, services and support to bring a rich, end-to-end online learning experience and build new capabilities for the university

- marketing
- enrolment
- student services and retention
- course development support
- faculty services
- technology development, integration and support
- strategic planning

Everspring

http://www.everspringpartners.com/

- design and deliver the future of education, online
- partner with leading universities looking for innovative solutions to enable their vision and further their mission
- help develop a mission-consistent strategy for starting or expanding partners' online programs
- **McGill will continue to define admissions and academic standards, and retain control of critical academic functions — including admissions decisions, content creation, defining learning outcomes, faculty hiring and faculty engagement.**

Phase one – Project initiation

- September 2016, TLS received a mandate and funding from the Provost to commence development
- In partnership with Everspring, we are
  - in discussion with the three identified Faculties to select programs based on market research
  - creating the infrastructure to deliver and support new modes of teaching and learning