

**COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)**

James Administration Building, Room 301

Date: Monday, December 12, 2016

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\*For meeting attendance list, please see last page.\*

Guest(s):

Drs. Celia Greenwood and Mathieu Blanchette from Interfaculty Studies

Dr. Elizabeth Wood from the Faculty of Education

\*Dean Nalbantoglu distributed Lindt chocolates

**Order was called at 2:35 p.m.**

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

**1.0 Adoption of the Agenda****CGPS-AGD\_2016.12.12**

Motion was made by Marta Kobiela, and seconded by Nicholas Dunn, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting****CGPS-MoM\_2016.10.31**

Motion was made by Thomas Colbourne, and seconded by Naguib Mechawar, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, October 31, 2016. Motion carried.

**Business Arising**

A question raised about whether the Graduate Milestones project would complement or replace the GTS (Graduate Tracking System) that has been implemented in the Faculty of Medicine. Dean Nalbantoglu assured CGPS members that the two tools are complementary, not redundant, and she announced that more information about Milestones would be coming to later CGPS meetings.

**For Approval****3.0 New Graduate Programs:****3.1 Ph.D. in Quantitative Life Sciences (0 credits)****CGPS-NP-Ph.D.QLS\_R00**

Presented by: Drs. Celia Greenwood and Mathieu Blanchette from Interfaculty Studies

Dean Nalbantoglu introduced the guests, Drs. Celia Greenwood and Mathieu Blanchette, who came to present the new Ph.D. in Quantitative Life Sciences, the first interfaculty program at McGill to be put forward as a new program.

Dr. Greenwood presented an informative slideshow that provided the background of QLS and an overview of the rationale for the program, which is that many students are already working at the interface of life sciences and medicine and quantitative physical sciences and the program will facilitate collaborative life science research and train the next generation of multidisciplinary researchers.

The program will have three streams: biophysics; computational and statistical molecular biology; and ecosystems. The program has been designed to ensure that students gain both breadth and depth in their knowledge and training. Specifically:

- all students will take a 2-semester capstone course, which will be taught in 3-week modules that each focus on a different area in QLS (breadth)
- students will participate in required academic activities such as a first year rotation program and monthly research seminars (breadth)

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- students will take 3 complementary courses related to their respective stream in their area of research, chosen with the supervisory committee (depth)
- the comprehensive exam at the end of second year (breadth and depth)
- thesis research (depth)

In the first year, the enrolment estimate is 10 students. The goal is to increase to 20 students after 5 years. Dr. Greenwood explained that wide consultation has been done with units across McGill. In addition, the QLS team has researched other similar programs in peer institutions.

After the presentation, there were some questions from Council members. First, Drs. Greenwood and Blanchette confirmed that there are no other programs of the same scope at Quebec or Canadian universities.

There was a question about who the students will be and how are they supervised (i.e., where do the supervisors sit?). The guests explained that students will come from both within McGill and beyond. They will enrol in the QLS program and supervisors remain in their respective departments and supervise with the approval of their Chair. There is already a list of over 40 faculty members across the Faculties of Medicine and Science who have the support of their Chairs to supervise graduate students in the QLS program. Furthermore, the program has its own admissions committee. Q: co-supervision from across faculties? A: definitely. That will be strongly encouraged. The committee needs to be interfaculty overall.

Another Council member asked how a cohort would be maintained among the students after the first year capstone course. The response was that this would be fostered through monthly seminars and an annual retreat.

Dean Nalbantoglu reminded Council that the Interfaculty Studies (IFS) administrative structure was passed at Senate in 2015 and that there are currently two other programs that sit under IFS: Biological and Biomedical Engineering (BBME) and the Integrated Program in Neuroscience (IPN). QLS will be the third program under IFS.

There was a question about where GEF (Graduate Excellence Fellowship) funding will go. The response was that the GEF will go directly to QLS and managed through their GPDs. Also, the budget for QLS has been sent to the Budget Office. Dean Nalbantoglu clarified that the GEF goes to the program.

Another question was about how students would be funded in their first-year rotations. The response was that this was included in the budget and Dean Nalbantoglu clarified that the program is not hiring new faculty, so the money that is in the budget will be going to students.

One Council member asked about possible areas of employment for QLS graduates. The response was that graduates would find work in all kinds of areas because of the broad skills gained and because of the needs in many domains (e.g., academic; industry) for highly trained individuals with quantitative skills.

There was a brief discussion about the list of complementary courses. The presenters explained that students will be encouraged by their supervisor and supervisory committee to take the courses needed to develop their skills and base to do their research. No new courses were created, with the exception of the capstone course.

After the guests left, there was an open discussion among Council members. There was positive feedback on the program as a whole. Some corrections were made to a couple of the course titles and there was some

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discussion about the inclusion of 500-level courses. It was explained that the courses were recommended by departmental curriculum committees as the best possible options for PhD students in this program.

The Ph.D. in Quantitative Life Sciences was unanimously approved.

**3.2 M.A. in Education and Society (Non-Thesis): CGPS-NP-M.A.Edu.&Soc.-NT\_Crws\_R00 Coursework (45 Credits)**

Presented by: Dr. Elizabeth Wood from the Faculty of Education

Dr. Wood explained the rationale for the revision to the M.A. in Education and Society (NT), which has to do with a bigger effort in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE) to align programs and options across all the Master's programs with the wide-range of types of students (teachers; administrators; researchers). As such, this Non-Thesis option will bring the M.A. in Education and Society in line with the other Master's programs that DISE offers, with 3 options: thesis, coursework, and project.

There were no questions for Dr. Wood from Council Members.

The M.A. in Education and Society (Non-Thesis): Coursework was unanimously approved.

**For Information**

**4.0 For Information:**

**4.1 Report #03**

**CGPS-RPT\_2016.12.12**

Minor/Moderate Revisions and Program Retirement [including Low Enrolment/Obsolete]

There were a few comments about the report, which will be addressed.

**Councilors' forum**

None

**Other Business**

**5.0 GPS Awards**

**5.1 Volunteers for selection committees**

Dean Nalbantoglu provided an overview of the 3 GPS awards (Excellence in Service, Carrie M. Derrick, and David Thomson) and asked for volunteers for the selection committees. The volunteers are:

- Aimee Ryan and Monzur Murshed (Carrie M Derrick)
- Marta Kobiela and Naguib Mechawar (David Thomson)
- Milica Popovich (Excellence in Service)

Dean Nalbantoglu announced that GPS is working on creating profiles of award winners for the website to showcase their excellence.

It was suggested that GPS create a fourth award for Excellence in Service of GPDs. Dean Nalbantoglu was in favour of this idea as it would recognize GPDs, who are the unsung heroes of graduate studies.

**There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 3:22 p.m.**

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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	Medicine	x		
6	Aimee K. Ryan	Medicine	x		
7	Sébastien Breau	Science	x		
8	Eyal Goren	Science	x		
9	Lauren Chapman	Science	x		
10	Ashraf A. Ismail	Agricultural, Environmental & Science			x
11	Vijaya Raghavan	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 Czermel	Law		x	
18	Samer Faraj ( <b>S. Scalia</b> )	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) (delegate) (ex-officio)	x		
-	David Syncox (Laura Winer)	TLS Director (delegate) (ex-officio)			x
<b>Members with voice but no vote</b>					
-	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		
-	Frank Babics	Admission Officer, Enrolment Services	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

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-	Audrey Simoneau	Committee Secretary	x		

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