

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

James Administration Building, Room 301

Date: Monday, March 13, 2017

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

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

Guest(s):

Drs. Jake E. Barralet and Lisbet Agneta Haglund from the Faculty of Medicine  
Dr. Bernard Robaire from the Faculty of Medicine

\* Dean Nalbantoglu passes around cookies. It seems to be a tradition to have cookies at CGPS meetings.

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

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

**1.0 Adoption of the Agenda**

**CGPS-AGD\_2017.03.13**

Motion was made by Vijaya Raghavan, and seconded by Marta Kobiela, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting**

**CGPS-MoM\_2017.02.13**

Motion was made by Thomas Colbourne, and seconded by Nancy Czernmel, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, February 13, 2017. Motion carried.

**Business Arising**

**For Approval**

**3.0 New Graduate Programs:**

**3.1 M.Sc. in Experimental Surgery (Non-Thesis)  
(45 credits)**

**CGPS-NP- CGPS-NP-M.Sc.Exp.Surg.-NT\_R00**

Presented by: Drs. Jake E. Barralet and Lisbet Agneta Haglund from the Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Barralet presented a proposal for a 45-credit non-thesis option of the existing thesis Master's degree in Experimental Surgery. Surgery is becoming increasingly technology-driven and the new program will allow for a more flexible education than the thesis option, and allow students to learn more about global surgery, surgical innovation, and health economics. Dr. Barralet explained that the new option will serve a wide range of students including surgical residents, basic scientists, nurses, and health care and research professionals. The non-thesis option will increase clinician participation in graduate education.

The current challenge with the thesis Master's is finding thesis supervisors because not all surgeons have labs. As such, the department is turning away about 10 applicants per year. The non-thesis option will cater to those applicants who are not interested in doing a research thesis.

The 45-credit program has 33 credits of required courses, 6 credits of complementary courses and 6 credits of elective courses. All course consultations have been done. Among the required courses, there is a 12-credit research project.

There are not many non-thesis Master's programs in surgery across Canada, though there are similar programs at Western and UBC. While there are health-related non-thesis Master's programs at McGill, none overlap with this proposed option.

After Dr. Barralet's presentation, Council members asked a few questions. The first was with respect to expected enrolment. Dr. Barralet replied that they anticipate around 15 students in the first year, increasing to 20. This number is based on the 10 who are currently being turned away from the thesis option, plus some more students from recruitment efforts.

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There was a question regarding whether increasing enrolment would put a strain on the elective courses listed in the program. The response was that students will not all take the same elective courses, so this will not create a strain on existing courses.

Another Council member asked whether the students who are currently being turned away from the thesis option will want to do the non-thesis option. Dr. Barralet explained that they are already seeing a trend that students are looking for a non-thesis program.

Finally, there was a question about the research projects and whether there are enough supervisors for the projects. Dr. Barralet responded that there will be many types of projects - some will be lab-based; some prototyping-based - depending on the interests of the supervisors. In addition, many surgeons are keen to supervise projects but cannot supervise a thesis.

After Dr. Barralet and Dr. Haglund left the room, there was a comment from Council regarding some edits to the program description. In particular, it was recommended to replace “degree” with “program” in the description. In addition, the “6 credits from” should not be listed under required courses, but rather complementary courses.

The Master’s in Experimental Surgery (Non-Thesis) was unanimously approved.

### 3.2 Ph.D. in Pharmacology; Environmental Health CGPS-NP-Ph.D.Pharma\_Env.Hlth.Sci\_R00 Sciences (0 credits)

Presented by: Dr. Bernard Robaire from the Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Robaire presented a new option in Environmental Health for the Ph.D. in Pharmacology. He explained that this option is a small modification to the existing program. They are simply adding 2 courses in Environmental Health which cover topics ranging from exposure to toxicology, to epidemiology and policy. He explained that the program aligned with McGill’s focus on sustainability. In addition, students have been asking for this over the past few years. There are no current programs that link pharmacology, toxicology, and environmental health the way this program does, and as such, it will attract new students. Consultations have been done with positive responses from all departments.

There were no questions from Council members for Dr. Robaire.

After Dr. Robaire left, there were a few edits pointed out. Specifically, course titles need to be corrected for PHAR701 and PHAR503 in both existing and revised columns on the proposal form. In addition, the description of the thesis should specify that the thesis needs to be related to an Environmental Health sciences topic. There was a question about whether consultation is needed from the McGill School of Environment. Dean Nalbantoglu explained that the Master’s and PhD programs were both submitted with the same option and confirmed that the GPS Programs Team has seen the consultations. The Master’s was not presented at this meeting due to some other changes that are required before submission.

The Ph.D. in Pharmacology; Environmental Health was unanimously approved.

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**4.0 Major Revisions to Graduate Programs:**

**4.1 Ph.D. in Music; Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies (0 credits) CGPS-MRP-Ph.D.Mus\_GSFS\_R00**

Dean Nalbantoglu explained that the title is changing to reflect standardization across the option – gender, sexuality, and feminist studies. This came out of a recent cyclical review.

There was no discussion, except it was pointed out that the revision is in fact considered moderate; therefore, it should be included in the report submitted to ES, not SCTP.

The Ph.D. in Music; Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies was unanimously approved.

**For Information**

**5.0 For Information:**

**5.1 Report #06 CGPS-RPTP\_2017.03.13**

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

There was no further discussion.

**5.2 Report for Cotutelle Agreements CGPS-RPTCA\_2017.03.13**

Dean Nalbantoglu explained that the cotutelle agreement being reported is McGill's 13<sup>th</sup> cotutelle agreement. This one is in the Faculty of Law between McGill and Sciences Po. One edit was pointed out – to change the PhD to DCL.

**5.3 Report for Exchange Agreements CGPS-RPTEA\_2017.03.13**

There was one edit to the exchange agreement report that was presented; that is, to specify that the MSc Public Health is a non-thesis program.

**Councilors' forum**

**6.0 Item proposed:**

**6.1 Calculation of the equivalent GPA for the grades from the leading Chinese universities.**

Dean Nalbantoglu introduced this topic by explaining that there are two types of GPA calculations: first, calculations done at admission time; and second, the calculations that are done at fellowship application time.

Council member Dr. Milica Popović gave a short presentation about the challenges with the GPA conversion for applicants from top Chinese universities. She explained that the GPA calculation at McGill leads to low GPAs for very good prospective graduate students from China. This is because Chinese universities do not recognize plus or minus grades. She would like to find a way to better map the grade equivalencies to ensure McGill is getting excellent students. Dr. Popović presented a case study of Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, which is very highly ranked in China. The top student has 89%, which using the McGill conversion translates to a B. As such, the best student at one of the top electrical engineering programs in China would have a GPA at McGill of 3.0. She argued that a more refined scheme would align GPAs and recognize these students.

Dean Nalbantoglu explained that there are other countries that experience the same difficulties (e.g., Brazil) and that McGill admissions is using international standards for conversion. While it is unlikely that admissions will change how they grade GPAs on uApply, there can be local education with respect to local

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admissions decisions, and adjustments made for fellowships to ensure more equality. Dean Nalbantoglu said she would look into the Chinese conversions and bring it back to CGPS in September.

**Other Business**

None

**There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 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	<b>TBA</b>	Arts			
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 Popović	Engineering	x		
16	Monzur Murshed	Dentistry	x		
17	Nancy Czermel	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		
<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 (on leave)	Interdisciplinary Programs Officer - GPS			
-	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