

## COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

James Administration Building, Room 301

Date: 01-13-2020

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

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

Guest(s):

Profs. Kimiz Dalkir and Benjamin Fung, School of Information Studies  
Maggie Lattuca, Teaching and Learning Services

**Order was called at 2:34 p.m.**

Josephine Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

**1.0 Adoption of the Agenda****CGPS-AGD\_2020.01.13**

Motion was made by Lindsay Duncan, and seconded by Russell Steele, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting****CGPS-MoM\_2019.12.02**

Motion was made by Bruno Belzile, and seconded by Griet Vankeerberghen, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, December 02, 2019. Motion carried.

**Business Arising**

None

**For Approval****3.0 New Graduate Programs:****3.1 Certificate in Cybersecurity (15 credits)****CGPS-NP-Gr.Certi.Cybersecurity\_R00**

Presented by: Profs. Dalkir and Fung; Ms. Lattuca

The proposers presented a new Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity, which will be offered online by the School of Information Studies. They argued that there is a need for a cybersecurity workforce with technological and risk management skills. The proposers explained that the Certificate's five courses are designed around network processes and attacks. They elaborated on the structure for the online Certificate and explained admission requirements. Proposers highlighted that they are seeking applicants with bachelor degrees in related fields (e.g., computer science, information studies) or professionals with at least 6 years of industrial experience. This new graduate Certificate stands apart from existing Cybersecurity degrees, which generally target undergraduate populations and are usually either technical or targeted towards managers. The presentation was concluded with a brief review of the applied 'community of inquiry' framework.

CGPS commentary:

- A Council member asked about the hiring of sessional instructors to teach the five courses. Proposers reassured Council that the School of Information Studies already relies on sessional instructors to teach the majority of their courses. It is a challenging, but sustainable approach. Moreover, professor Fung's network offers a pool of potential candidates for teaching the courses.
- A Council member inquired about the rationale for choosing a self-funded approach. This was deemed the better financial route.
- A Council member asked whether companies might be interested in sponsoring their employees to take the Certificate. The proposers noted that some members of the SIS Advisory Committee, which comprises stakeholders in government and in corporations, have already expressed interest in doing so.
- A Council member found errors in the course submissions that need to be corrected.
- A Council member asked whether students could skip semesters. The proposers expressed that they want the structure of offerings to be flexible, however they did impose a time limit for completion, which they will clarify in their proposal. It was also noted that students are not allowed to have 'empty terms' anymore,

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therefore students might not have a choice but to take a course a semester. Proposers will take this in consideration.

- A Council member asked whether a Master's student could take these courses for credit. The answer is no; however, they can do the certificate after completing their degree.
- Another Council member inquired about their current enrolment numbers for graduate certificates. Proposers reported low enrolment. However, there seems to be student interest in online programs.
- Council members addressed admission requirements. It was suggested that proposers open the program to students from different fields, including the social sciences and humanities, and that they reduce the GPA requirement to 3.0.

CGPS discussion:

- Two Council members noted discrepancies in the executive summary. It was advised that proposers review their distribution of credits and contact Cindy Smith.
- There was concern about the estimated enrolment and revenue, however, this is worked out by the Office of the Provost.
- Council discussed the online delivery. It was confirmed that McGill is looking into more online programming.
- A Council member expressed concern about hiring sessionals and quality control, noting that McGill has discouraged the practice in the past to safeguard its reputation. The Council Chair responded that course-based Master's programs are becoming more popular, so there is a shift towards hiring professionals with practical experience. Moreover, a Council member noted that it is difficult to find faculty with an academic background in Cybersecurity. The ECE department may be able to share resources. Finally, the quality of the program is the responsibility of the GPD.
- There was some concern about the use of Library resources. It was noted that there may be issues if corporations can increasingly access materials through their employees at McGill, as opposed to purchasing the rights to access.

Motion was made by Nicholas Moitessier and seconded by Daniel Varro to approve the new program. The new program was unanimously approved; it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

**4.0 Framework for a Cumulative Master's Degree**

CGPS-MEMO-CumulMasters\_R00

It was explained that the cumulative Master's Degree had been previously brought to Council for information purposes; however, approval is now needed to submit to APC and to Senate. Associate-Dean France Bouthillier presented the cumulative Master's Degree (stackable) to Council, offering a background of this degree path in Quebec, defining it, and sharing details on the admission process and plan of study.

CGPS discussion:

- A Council member asked whether online and face-to-face programs could be combined to make a cumulative Master's. The response was that departments should be clear about which certificates are eligible, and for what program. It does not matter if the certificates are online or not.
- A cumulative Master's program can involve a research project.
- There was discussion on the possibility of doing a cumulative Master's in Computer Science and Mathematics. It was clarified that a department needs to offer certificates and to have a non-thesis Master's program in which they can house the cumulative Master's degree.
- There were some concerns about whether such an approach is as rigorous as the traditional path to obtaining a Master's; it was emphasized that this is the same as a course-based, non-thesis Master's, and it is meant to be an

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option for departments to consider. At the moment, only Education has implemented a cumulative Master's degree.

- It was noted that a cumulative Master's degree can take up to ten years, since a typical certificate can be completed in 3 years. There was some concern around students' access to the Library between certificates and during semesters where they are not registered. It was confirmed that typically, students only need to declare their intention to do the cumulative Master's after the second certificate, so students do not remain registered in a cumulative Master's for ten years.
- **Council recommended that the framework document specify that the cumulative Master's is non-thesis.**

The new program was unanimously approved; it will be reported to APC for approval.

**For Information****5.0 For Information:****5.1 Report for Minor/Moderate Revisions and Program Retirements [including Low Enrolment/Obsolete]****CGPS-RPTP\_2020.01.13****Councilors' forum****None****Other Business****6.0 Comprehensive Exams**

The Chair of CGPS presented on the variety of formats for comprehensive exams, their purpose, and the expected timeline for completion at McGill. Students are expected to do their comprehensive exams by the end of PhD 3; departments and supervisors can ensure that students do so in a timely manner by keeping track through myProgress. The failure policy was also reviewed; guidelines are available in the eCalendar.

Some Council members expressed concern about the tight timeline, due to the nature of the comprehensive exams or lack of supervisor involvement. However, programs can adjust the goals of the comprehensive exams to ensure students complete them in time. Students should also not be falling through the cracks because of myProgress and its notification system.

**7.0 Cotutelles**

The discussion was postponed.

**Volunteers needed to be judges for the GPS awards.**

Council members who generously volunteered their time include: Bruno Belzile, Dakota Rogers, Jason Carmichael, and Lena Weman Ericsson.

**There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 p.m.**

## COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

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## \*Delegate

Q*	Name	Faculty/Departement	Present	Regrets	Absent
1	Prashant Keshavmurthy	Arts			x
2	Jason Carmichael	Arts	x		
3	Griet Vankeerberghen	Arts	x		
4	Robert Funnell	Medicine	x		
5	Sonia Semenic	Medicine	x		
6	Nathalie Lamarche-Vane (on behalf of Chan	Medicine	x		
7	Nicolas Moitessier	Science	x		
8	Russell Steele	Science	x		
9	Lauren Chapman	Science	x		
10	Jean-Benoit Charron	Agricultural, Environmental & Science		x	
11	Stephanie Chevalier	Agricultural, Environmental & Science	x		
12	Lindsay Duncan	Education	x		
13	Caroline Riches (on behalf of Marta Kobiela	Education	x		
14	Theodora Vardouli	Engineering		x	
15	Daniel Varro	Engineering	x		
16	Monzur Murshed	Dentistry			x
17	Bianca Bourgeois (on behalf of Nancy Czern	Law	x		
18	Emmanuelle Vaast	Management	x		
19	Lena Weman Ericsson	Music	x		
20	Dakota Rogers	Secretary-General - PGSS	x		
21	Bruno Belzile	Postdoctoral fellow	x		
22	Heba Madi	Graduate Student - Arts			x
23	Alissa Rutman	Graduate Student - Medicine	x		
24	Oana Stefanescu	Graduate Student - Law		x	
25	Erin Gibbons	Graduate Student - Science	x		
-	Jeffrey Archer	Libraries (ex-officio)	x		
-	Nancy Ross (for Martha Crago)	Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (ex-officio) (delegate)	x		
-	Carolyn Samuel (for 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	
-	France Bouthillier	Associate Dean - GPS	x		
-	Lorraine Chalifour	Associate Dean - GPS	x		
-	Elisa Pylkkanen	Director - GPS	x		
-	Maggie Do Couto	Academic Affairs Officer - GPS		x	
-	Chloe Garcia	Academic Affairs Officer - GPS	x		
-	Cindy Smith	SCTP Secretary	x		
-	Sarah Curci	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