

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

Meeting held on Zoom

Date: Monday, May 25, 2020

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

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

Guest(s):

Dr. John Paul Ferguson, Desautels Faculty of Management  
Prof. Ian Gold and Mr. Nicholas Dunn, Faculty of Arts

**\*This meeting was held by Zoom due to the global pandemic\***

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

**1.0 Adoption of the Agenda CGPS-AGD\_2020.05.25**

Motion was made by Jean-Benoit Charron, and seconded by Griet Vankeerberghen, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting CGPS-MoM\_2020.04.20**

Motion was made by Sonia Semenic, and seconded by Stephanie Chevalier, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, April 20, 2020. Motion carried.

**Business Arising**

None

**For Approval**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>3.0 New Graduate Programs</b>  | None  |
| <b>4.0 Major revisions to programs</b>  |   |
| <b>4.1 Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) General Management (Non-Thesis)</b>   | CGPS-MRP-M.B.A. GenManage-NT_R00                    |
| <b>4.2 Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Civil Law/Juris Doctor (M.B.A. &amp; B.C.L./JD) Management (Non-Thesis) General Management and Law</b> | CGPS-MRP-M.B.A.B.C.L.J.D.Manage-NT_GenManageLaw_R00 |
| Presented by: Dr. John Paul Ferguson  |   |

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) General Management (Non-Thesis)

The proposer provided an overview of the McGill MBA program offered in Japan. It is equivalent in content to the Canadian program taught at McGill, although its structure is different. The Faculty of Management offers this program as “the Japanese campus of a foreign university”. To maintain compliance with Japanese law, the programs taught on both campuses must have the same coursework requirements. The McGill program was revised last year; therefore, the MBA Japan must be adjusted accordingly. Revisions will take effect in April 2021.

CGPS Commentary

- A Council member asked whether the program should be 45 credits. It was noted that non-thesis Master’s programs can have a higher credit weight.

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- A Council member questioned whether ‘integrated’ would remain in the title of the program. It was explained that the title does not include this word.

Motion was made by Chantal Autexier and seconded by Jason Carmichael to approve the new program. The new program was approved with 25 votes (1 abstain); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Civil Law/Juris Doctor (M.B.A. & B.C.L./JD) Management (Non-Thesis) General Management and Law

Historically, students have entered the Joint MBA/BCL/JD by starting with the MBA or Law degree core courses. The Faculty of Law typically recognizes several credits outside the department to count for the Law degree. The program was put on hold last year while revising the MBA. The current program revision reflects the changes to the MBA; in addition, it shows a change in the title of the Law degree, a reduction in the joint program’s credit weight, and a new Law course. These changes also reflect better credit recognition across both Faculties and will enable students to complete the joint degree faster.

CGPS Commentary

- A Council member asked why the former program was retired. The proposer replied that they did not want students to apply. They have students starting this fall, who are informed that they can transfer to the revised program next year.
- Another Council member noted that the revised program description is less rich than the previous version. The proposer noted he would consider this feedback.
- A Council member questioned the rationale for a combined degree. The proposer explained that joint Law and MBA degrees are common in universities, and there is overlap in content. It is also useful for professionals to have both backgrounds. There is a small but consistent number of applicants interested in working at the nexus of both fields.
- A Council member followed up with an inquiry about admissions. The proposers confirm they admit approximately 50% of applicants (about 5 students out of the ten who apply).

Motion was made by Nancy Czettel and seconded by Griet Vankeerberghen to approve the new program. The new program was approved with 26 votes (1 abstain); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

**For Information****5.0 For Information:****5.1 Report for Minor/Moderate Revisions and Program Retirements [including Low Enrolment/Obsolete]****CGPS-RPTP\_2020.05.25****5.2 Report of Cotutelles and Joint/Dual Degrees****CGPS-RPTCA\_2020.05.25**

The Chair reminded everyone about the revisions to Master’s (thesis) programs over 45 credits. They will be reported to the Ministry. Only a few programs in need of revision remain. The Cotutelle and Joint/Dual degree report was briefly discussed. A Council member asked about the department leading the dual Master’s and Joint PhD with Bordeaux University: it was clarified (Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health).

**Councillors’ forum**

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**6.0 Item proposed:****6.1 Keep.meSafe: Graduate Student Mental Health Services**

The PGSS representative reported that EmpowerMe is no longer available to graduate students: it has been replaced by Keep.meSafe. This platform is provided by Morneau Shepell. It gives students access to counsellors in and out of Montreal, via phone or secure chat. Services are offered 24/7, all year. Access is also unlimited. This program is well-equipped to cater to large populations. It includes services from counsellors who are specialized in aiding specific populations (international students, marginalized populations, LGBTQ). Students can also access services in different languages, spoken by native speakers. Students pay \$2.75 per semester for the platform, while the university pays approximately \$12. During the Council discussion, it was confirmed that this platform became available to students in March. Council members requested that information about this program be sent through a GradProg.

**Other Business****7.0 Ph.D. Philosophy: Teaching/ Experience of first term**

Presented by: Prof. Ian Gold and Mr. Nicholas Dunn

The Chair gave the background for the PhD in Philosophy, Teaching option. The presenters then debriefed Council on the two new courses offered during the Winter semester. Both the seminar and the mentorship course, which included 4 students and 5 mentors, were described as successful and educational. They were appreciated by faculty members and students alike. The initial concerns from Council about mentorship were addressed, with the presenters confirming there was a lot of interest from faculty members. The support from TLS was also commended. Finally, a Council member inquired whether this option could work in program outside the Humanities. The presenters noted that the foundations of the framework for the Option could work for different fields and departments.

**8.0 GPS Guidelines on Research Ramp-Up**

The Chair reported that labs are opening progressively. She recognized the frustration experienced by faculty members and students not working in labs, who need access to campus. However, research is deemed an essential activity by the government. Many committees are working in the background to decide what opens up in each phase. She observed that students have expressed polarized views about the re-opening of research labs- some do not want to return while others are anxious to do so. The Chair also noted that there are now guidelines for graduate students working in labs, which were approved by various committees. She then presented the GPS FAQ website.

Council members reported concerns from incoming students about moving to Montreal, particularly when little is known about the Winter semester. The Chair announced that those students who are coming to Montreal will be able to enjoy some in-person learning activities in the fall. Announcements about the Winter semester would come out in August or September. More webinars for students will be available during the summer, for those who have confirmed or outstanding offers. The Chair reported that Tri-Council stipends could be applied to student fees, and there should be no issue with GEF funds. It was confirmed that funding is available to students who have difficulty accessing technology and the internet. A Council member inquired how needs were assessed.

The Chair thanked Council for their hard work.

**There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 4.26p.m.**

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

Remote meeting via Zoom

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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	Chantal Autexier	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	Marta Kobiela	Education	x		
14	Theodora Vardouli	Engineering	x		
15	Daniel Varro	Engineering	x		
16	Monzur Murshed	Dentistry	x		
17	Nancy Czommel	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		
-	Jeffry Archer	Libraries (ex-officio)			x
-	Sylvain Coulombe (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