![McGill Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies logo]

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom　　　　　Date: Monday, November 16, 2020　　　　　Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For meeting attendance list, please see last page.

Guest(s):
Dr. Cecily Raynor, Faculty of Arts
Prof. Tabitha Sparks, Faculty of Arts
Prof. Laura Nilson, Faculty of Science
Dr. Nicholas Dunn, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Order was called at 2:33 p.m.
Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

| 1.0 | **Adoption of the Agenda** | **CGPS-AGD_2020.11.16** |

Motion was made by Tamara Western, and seconded by Cecily Hilsdale, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

| 2.0 | **Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting** | **CGPS-MoM_2020.10.19** |

Motion was made by Marie-Helene Pennestri, and seconded by Stephanie Chevalier, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, October 19, 2020. Motion carried.

Business Arising

None

For Approval

3.0　New Graduate Programs:

3.1　Master of Arts (M.A.) Digital Humanities (Non-Thesis)　　CGPS-NP-M.A.DigHum-NT_R00
Presented by: Dr. Cecily Raynor from Faculty of Arts

The proposed Master of Arts (M.A.) Digital Humanities (Non-Thesis) is an intensive 12-month, project-based program designed to attract students seeking to invest in enhancing their careers in humanities-based education with computational and digital comprehension and skills. Whereas the current Ad Hoc Master's thesis program in Digital Humanities is geared towards students on an academic track, the M.A. in Digital Humanities (Non-Thesis) is intended for students looking to transition to the public and private sectors after graduating. The program consists of required core course LLCU 602, two labs and five complementary courses, culminating in a Supervised Research and Capstone Project in the final Summer term. Anticipated enrolment is 6 to 8 students in the first year with an overall enrolment potential of 18-20 students by the sixth year. In terms of comparable programs, the Master of Arts (M.A.) Digital Humanities (Non-Thesis) would be the first 1-year, non-thesis program in Canada.

CGPS commentary
- A Council member asked if the complementary courses could eventually be adapted to attract students from other relevant Arts programs (e.g. History). The proposer confirmed that this was possible.
- A Council member inquired about expanding the current Ad Hoc (thesis) program. The proposer emphasized the distinctions between the two programs. They confirmed wanting to make the Ad Hoc an official program at McGill in the future.
- A Council member questioned the breadth of the program given the large amount of time devoted to the two lab-based courses. The proposer noted the inherent breadth of the program as a result of the wide variety of backgrounds and interests of students entering the program. The courses are intensive and meant to complement the final Capstone project.

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- A Council member asked if there would be an issue in terms of supervisory capacity for the final Capstone Project. The proposer explained that they are in discussion with other Montreal universities to establish a partnership that would enable co-supervision. The proposers are also requesting new hires.
- A Council member expressed concern as to whether students would have the necessary prerequisites for some of the complementary course offerings, specifically those that seem important to the program (e.g. Computer Science, Geography). The proposer explained that while some students would not have the prerequisites, they would develop competencies through the labs and the Capstone project. Dean Nalbantoglu added that students would select courses based on their individual backgrounds.
- Council members questioned the manageability of the heavy workload, and whether it could be adapted to accommodate students (e.g. working parents). The proposers anticipate that the students entering this program would be highly motivated to complete an intense amount of work in a short amount of time. The proposer will consider accommodations.
- A Council member pointed out overlap between the Master of Arts (M.A.) Digital Humanities (Non-Thesis) and the Master of Arts and Science (Non-Thesis). It was noted that the latter uses data to address social change, while the former focuses on using digital methods for data analysis.
- A Council member suggested housing the program in a Digital Humanities center. It was confirmed that this is being discussed.

CGPS requests
- Council members suggested that 500- and 600-level complementary courses that are not listed in the proposal should be approved by the Graduate Program Director in addition to the academic advisor or supervisor.
- Council members requested that presenters be advised that course prerequisites may prevent some students from taking certain complementary courses.

Motion was made by Marta Kobiela, and seconded by Cecily Hilsdale, to approve the new program. The new program was approved with 17 votes (3 abstain); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

3.2   Master of Arts and Science (M.A. & Sc.) (Non-Thesis)   CGPS-NP-MA.Sc.-NT_R00
Presented by: Prof. Tabitha Sparks from Faculty of Arts, Prof. Laura Nilson from Faculty of Science and Dr. Nicholas Dunn from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

The Master of Arts and Science (M.A. & Sc.) (Non-Thesis) is grounded in the recognition that devising solutions to complex global problems requires a synthesis of methods and knowledge from both the humanities and sciences. The program aims to expose students to a variety of disciplinary approaches, methods of investigation and approaches to working with data and apply these to thinking about solutions to current social problems. The M.A. & Sc. is intended for recent graduates of a B.A. or B.Sc. who already have some interdisciplinary knowledge in the Arts and Sciences. The program consists of a Proseminar series, a Data Analytics component, a Project series, and 12 credits of complementary courses. Students will do approximately half of their course work as a cohort, allowing for an exchange between disciplines. A bootcamp will be available for students who may need to hone skills they may be lacking. The M.A. & Sc. is unique in its combination of elements from both the Arts and Sciences.

CGPS commentary
- A Council member asked whether the Capstone project would be done as a group or individually. The proposers envision the Capstone project to be done as a group; however, this is flexible.

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- A Council member asked whether the Department of Mathematics and Statistics was consulted. The proposers replied that they communicated with the Department.
- A Council member asked if the ARSC courses would be open to students in other programs. It was noted that this will be a possibility, but priority will be given to students in the program.
- A Council member asked who would be teaching the proseminars. The proposers replied that ideally, the first two proseminars would be co-taught by professors from Arts and from Science.
- A Council member asked about the types of issues students would be tackling in their projects. Potential topics were suggested, such as multidisciplinary approaches to pandemics.
- A Council member asked how the program would address the ethical concerns of collecting data when dealing with vulnerable populations. The proposers emphasized the strength of a multidisciplinary program in taking into account context and multiple dimensions when collecting and analyzing data.
- A Council member suggested that the program should address the fundamentals of complex systems. The proposer explained that the students will be learning how different disciplines in the Arts and Sciences approach complex problems.
- A Council member questioned whether they would be able to attract students from desired academic backgrounds. The proposers explained that the diversity of the cohort will be guiding the admissions process.
- Dean Nalbantoglu provided Council members with an overview of the program approval process.

CGPS requests
- Council members suggested that 500- and 600-level complementary courses that are not listed should be approved by the Graduate Program Director in addition to the academic advisor or supervisor.
- Council members requested that presenters be advised that course prerequisites may prevent some students from taking certain complementary courses.
- Council members requested that consultations should be done with the Mathematics and Statistics and Biostatistics units.

Motion was made by Marta Kobiela, and seconded by Samer Faraj, to approve the new program. The new program was approved with 18 votes (2 abstain); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

For Information

4.0 For Information:

4.1 Minor/Moderate Revisions and Program Retirement [including Low Enrolment/Obsolete]   **CGPS-RPTP_2020.11.16**

Proposals available upon request.

Councilors' forum

5.0 Item proposed

5.1 Restrictions on Graduate Mobility Awards

Dean Nalbantoglu provided Council members with a background on Graduate Mobility Awards. Every year, McGill University received funds for mobility awards from the Quebec government. McGill used these awards solely for undergraduate students (Mobility Bursary for Exchanges Program) until 2016 when the Graduate Mobility Award was launched. In 2019, the government requested that McGill enforce program rules regarding eligibility and funding amounts, leading to some restrictions. Dean

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Nalbantoglu noted that one of the provisions for regulated mobility awards is that students cannot carry out their work in their country of origin. In these cases, we use unregulated mobility awards (see below).

In 2017-2018, the Quebec government introduced a special 3-year grant program called the 'Plan de réussite'. This grant was used for unregulated mobility awards and professional development (e.g., Doctoral Internship Program). Students will continue to have access to this until April 2022.

5.2   Restriction on Work Hours for Graduate Students

Dean Nalbantoglu emphasized the importance of funding students so that they can devote themselves to their research. She confirmed that 180 hours of work per term is a reasonable limit to ensure students progress successfully.

Other Business

6.0   **Graduate Funding**
Presented by: Associate Dean Russell Steele from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Associate Dean Steele discussed the creation of a standardized framework for graduate funding letters. There are currently several issues surrounding funding letters related to mixed employment and award amounts, promises of TA positions to incoming international students who can't be paid if outside of Canada, and confusion around the different languages departments use for funding.

As a result, GPS is proposing to standardize funding letters across units. This strategy would involve separating the components related to awards and employment, with employment salary only being referred to as expected rather than guaranteed. Award payments would also be clearly separated into funding for tuition versus funding for living expenses. Furthermore, funding letters will require eligible students to regularly apply for provincial and federal awards, explicitly stating that only students who do not hold sufficient internal and external awards will be granted additional funding. Discussion will be resumed at the next CGPS meeting on December 14, 2020.

CGPS requests
- Council members requested to see a draft of the funding letter model being proposed.

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

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Q*	Name	Faculty/Departement	Present	Regrets	Absent
1	Cecily Hilsdale	Arts	X		
2	Eran Shor	Arts			X
3	Griet Vankeerberghen	Arts	X		
4	Robert Funnell	Medicine and Health Sciences	X		
5	Isabelle Gelinas	Medicine and Health Sciences	X		
6	Nathalie Lamarche-Vane	Medicine and Health Sciences	X		
7	Andrew Cumming	Science	X		
8	Nicolas Moitessier	Science	X		
9	Tamara Western	Science	X		
10	Jean-Benoit Charron	Agricultural, Environmental & Science			X
11	Stephanie Chevalier	Agricultural, Environmental & Science	X		
12	Marta Kobiela	Education	X		
13	Marie-Helene Pennestri	Education	X		
14	Jinhyuk Lee	Engineering	X		
15	Inna Sharf (for Siva Nadarajah)	Engineering	X		
16	Monzur Murshed	Dentistry	X		
17	Nancy Czemmel	Law	X		
18	Samer Faraj	Management	X		
19	Philippe Depalle	Music	X		
20	Kristi Kouchakji	Secretary-General - PGSS (delegate)	X		
21	**TBA**	Postdoctoral fellow			
22	**TBA**	Graduate Student - AES, Eng or Sci			
23	**TBA**	Graduate Student - Arts, Edu or MGMT			
24	**TBA**	Graduate Student - Dentistry or Med			
25	**TBA**	Graduate Student - Law or Music			
-	April Colosimo	Libraries (ex-officio)	X		
-	Sylvain Coulombe (for Martha Crago)	Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (ex-officio) (delegate)		X	
-	Carolyn Samuel (for Laura Winer)	Director - TLS (ex-officio)	X		
Members with voice but no vote					
-	Josephine Nalbantoglu	Dean of GPS - Chair	X		
-	Lorraine Chalifour	Associate Dean - GPS	X		
-	Nathan Hall	Associate Dean - GPS	X		
-	Russell Steele	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