

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, January 25, 2021

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

For meeting attendance list, please see last page.

Guest(s):

Prof. Francesco Amodio, Institute for the Study of International Development
Prof. Manuel Balán, Institute for the Study of International Development
Prof. Natalie Stoljar, Faculty of Arts
Dr. Nicholas Dunn, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Jennifer Chen, Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University (PGSS)
Dakota Rogers, Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University (PGSS)
Steven Cameron, keep.meSAFE

Order was called at 2:32 p.m.

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

1.0 Adoption of the Agenda**CGPS-AGD_2021.01.25**

Motion was made by Jean-Benoit Charron, and seconded by Marie-Helene Pennestri, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting**CGPS-MoM_2020.12.14**

Motion was made by Tamara Western, and seconded by Griet Vankeerberghen, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, December 14, 2020. Motion carried.

Business Arising**3.0 Follow-up to Funding Presentation from December**

Dean Nalbantoglu presented the 'Average PhD Financial Support' on the Future Graduate Students webpage, which reflects the average funding received by either international or Quebec/Canadian/International exempt doctoral students, across Faculties and years of study. Four types of funding are represented: Internal (e.g., grad excellence funds); External (e.g., Tri-council, provincial fellowships); Research stipends, and Employment income (teaching assistantships, research assistantships). The data will soon be accessible through Tableau. GPS will provide updates.

For Approval**4.0 New Graduate Programs:****4.1 Master of Arts (M.A.) International Development CGPS-NP-M.A.IntDevel-NT_R00 (Non-Thesis)**

Presented by: Profs. Francesco Amodio and Manuel Balán from Faculty of Arts

The proposers presented the rationale and structure for the new 45-credit, year-long M.A. program in International Development (non-thesis). They argued that the dramatic changes in the field of International Development over the last two decades call for a program that understands context as key to achieving impact, that situates evidence grounded in both qualitative and quantitative data at the core of change, and that offers multi-faceted skill training that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. The new MA program will be interdisciplinary and offer a strong training in qualitative and quantitative methods. The program comprises 18 credits of required courses and 12 credits of complementary courses. Students in the program will be able to choose between professional internship experiences or additional research training, depending on their career goals. Consultations were made across various departments and Faculties during the program's development. The proposers presented on existing, related programs,

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highlighting the unique features of theirs, including its pathways to professionalization. They provided an estimate of 15-20 students enrolled per year.

CGPS commentary:

- A Council member asked about the small size of the program and questioned why there had been no consultations with Management. The proposers noted that most graduate programs in Arts are small and they need to keep in mind the size and capacity of their unit. Due to their popularity and scheduling, they foresee that it may be a challenge to add Management courses to the program.
- A Council member inquired about integrating Education courses. There is also a new BA in International Education and Global Citizenship that may produce students interested in the new MA program. The proposers noted they were interested in discussing this further with Education.
- A Council member requested elaboration on the meaning of ‘quantitative’. Proposers clarified that it refers to impact evaluation, and the basics of statistics and probability. He also asked how the program will address ‘complex problems’. The proposers noted that the program’s focus on both quantitative and qualitative methods and interdisciplinarity will help students tackle the complexity of global issues.
- A Council member asked if the quantitative course will be accessible to students who have not done this work in their undergraduate program. The answer is yes.

CGPS Discussion

- A Council member asked whether new resources are justified for a small program. Dean Nalbantoglu clarified that the four new Master’s programs in Arts that were proposed this year will share resources through an administrative hub.
- The Sociology representative appreciated the consultation process and extended his support.

Motion was made by Eran Shor, and seconded by Marie-Helene Pennestri, to approve the new program. The new program was unanimously approved with 22 votes (0 abstain, 0 against); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

- 4.2 Master of Arts (M.A.) Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies (Thesis) CGPS-NP-M.A.GenSexFemSocJus-T_R00**
- 4.3 Master of Arts (M.A.) Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies (Non-Thesis) CGPS-NP-M.A.GenSexFemSocJus-NT_R00**

Presented by: Prof. Natalie Stoljar from Faculty of Arts

The proposer presented the rationale and structure for the new 45-credit M.A. programs in Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies (non-thesis, thesis). She gave the background to the Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies (IGSF), highlighting its work in interdisciplinary research, outreach and engagement in gender studies, and its course offerings. The unit’s rationale for the new programs is rooted in student demand for graduate training at McGill and elsewhere, their uniqueness in Quebec, the need to bring McGill in line with other Canadian universities offering gender studies programs, the need to centralize interdisciplinary research in gender studies at McGill, and the opportunity for graduate supervision by esteemed faculty at IGSF.

The 2-year M.A. (thesis) program comprises 33 credits in research courses and 12 credits in complementary courses. The 1-year M.A. (non-thesis) program structure is 12 and 18 credits in required and complementary courses (respectively), with 15 credits allotted to either an internship or research paper. The implementation of both programs, as well as the options in the Non-Thesis M.A., will cater to different students’ needs and career goals (academic or professional). Consultations were made across various departments and Faculties during the development of the programs. The proposer presented on

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existing, related programs, highlighting the absence of such programs in Quebec and their existence at competing Canadian universities. She provided an estimate of 10-20 students enrolled per year.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member asked about the consultation process with Sociology. The proposer clarified the process. IGSF will contact the unit again.
- A Council member questioned the overlap with the existing Option in Gender Studies. The proposer clarified that the Option is available to students who are housed in different departments, but who want to take Gender Studies courses to add to their expertise. The proposed Master's programs, on the other hand, would attract students who want to primarily specialize in Gender Studies. The overlap with students in these new programs and the Option in the core courses is efficient.
- A Council member noted that there is a lot of administrative overhead for such a small program, to which the proposers noted that this is common in the Faculty of Arts.
- A Council member noted the length of the program title might be difficult to handle. The proposer agreed and will discuss with their committee.
- A Council member asked about whether 'Indigenous Feminisms' would have a home in the Institute. The proposer noted that they try to offer the course annually, in conjunction with Indigenous Studies.
- A Council member requested clarification on the extent to which social justice is represented. The proposer stated that in addition to addressing racism, the courses will also explore disability research, indigenous studies, critical race theory, postcolonialism research, and work on social justice and activism. The Institute has a commitment to address the intersectional nature of Gender Studies.
- A Council member requested a clearer title for GDFS 694- Proposal. The nature of the course was clarified.
- A Council member asked if the number of hours for the internship is sufficient. The proposers and Dean Nalbantoglu replied yes.

CGPS Discussion

- Dean Nalbantoglu elaborated on enrolment. As one of the new Arts programs, the new hire will be shared with another unit.
- A Council member noted that units should be able to share faculty for supervision and teaching.
- A Council member questioned how the credits for the thesis were distributed and the need for a course on writing proposals. Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed the thesis program meets the Ministry standard. Other Council members noted that their programs have a similar distribution of thesis credits and it is normal in Arts. One member also expressed that students appreciate seminars that offer support on research projects and goal setting for internships.
- A Council member asked for two revisions to the program: adjusting the title of the Proposal course and removing or clarifying 'and more' in the programs' descriptions.

Approval of the Thesis program: Motion was made by Griet Vankeerberghen, and seconded by Samer Faraj, to approve the new program. The new program was approved with 21 votes (1 abstain, 0 against); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

Approval of the Non-thesis program: Motion was made by Isabelle Gelinas, and seconded by Chantal Autexier, to approve the new program. The new program was approved with 21 votes (1 abstain, 0 against); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

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For Information**5.0 For Information:****5.1 Minor/Moderate Revisions and Program Retirement [including Low Enrolment/Obsolete] CGPS-RPTP_2021.01.25**

Proposals available upon request.

Councilors' forum

None

Other Business**6.0 PGSS Peer Support Program**

Presented by: Jennifer Chen, Health Commissioner, Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University (PGSS)

The PGSS Health Commissioner provided an overview of the PGSS Peer Support Program. It was created last year to supplement university resources and to address graduate students' needs. The program matches students seeking support with a trained peer. The service is available throughout the year. Requests are made via a Google form. The student is matched based on factors like language, availability, and degree. The student and trained peer meet through a confidential Zoom meeting. The session is followed by feedback and debriefing. Services are virtual for now, until Fall 2021. Graduate students can apply to become support resources. All volunteers are offered training. There are currently 36 trained volunteers. PGSS would appreciate if Council members can help raise awareness of the service among graduate students.

7.0 Keep.MeSafe

Presented by: Dakota Rogers, Member Services Officer, PGSS; Steven Cameron, keep.meSAFE

Steven Cameron, the keep.meSAFE representative, explained that the program is for students seeking out support from professional counsellors. It is free, confidential, and accessible 24/7. Students accessing the resource can speak to someone immediately or set an appointment in the near future. There are counsellors available for students across the world, who speak different languages. The service is easy to access through the My SSP app, by phone, and via the website. Students can expect to be triaged before being connected to a counsellor. Chat support is available in Chinese, Spanish, English and French. By phone, students can request other languages. Steven proposed different actions that faculty members can take: 1) Add keep.meSAFE information to the course syllabus, 2) Make promotional material in areas visible to students, 3) Have the My SSP app on their phone to encourage students to download it, 4) Use the content on the app as required reading material, 5) Help students identify reasons to reach out for support from Keep.meSAFE, 6) Facilitate students' connection to keep.meSAFE through an Assisted Referral.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member asked about the difference between keep.meSAFE and the Wellness hub, and when to recommend students to either services. Steven noted that keep.meSAFE is a service that works with the Wellness hub through an integrative approach and he advised to recommend both.
- A Council member questioned the level of security and privacy for both programs, in general and in particular related to the use of Google forms. Jennifer confirmed that the peer support coordinator is the only one with access to the student information and meetings are held through a confidential Zoom

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- link. Facilitators sign confidentiality forms, too. Steve confirmed that the information is secure with the keep.meSAFE platform.
- A Council member asked whether the Peer Support Program needs new volunteers. For now, no, but likely next fall.
 - A Council member asked about the distinction between my SSP and keep.meSAFE; the former is the app while the latter is the program.
 - A Council member asked about the boundaries between McGill and the company housing keep.meSAFE, Morneau Shepell. Steven confirmed that this is an umbrella company. Dean Nalbantoglu added that the company was carefully selected after a call for tender by McGill.
 - A Council member noted how both resources are complementary and could potentially merge. The main difference between both was noted: the peer support program is led by trained volunteers, whereas keepme.SAFE uses trained counsellors. Students using the latter, who need support in Montreal, are linked to McGill's support resources on campus.

8.0 Update on Enrolment

This topic will be addressed at a future meeting.

9.0 GPS Awards for Faculty and Staff Selection Committee

Dean Nalbantoglu recruited Council representatives for the GPS award selection committees: Marie-Hélène Pennestri, Nathan Hall and Lorraine Chalifour. The PGSS representative(s) for the committees will be confirmed later.

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 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 Gelin	Medicine and Health Sciences	x		
6	Chantal Autexier	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	Paul Zanazanian (for Marta Kobiela)	Education	x		
13	Marie-Helene Pennestri	Education	x		
14	Jinhyuk Lee	Engineering	x		
15	Siva Nadarajah	Engineering	x		
16	Monzur Murshed	Dentistry	x		
17	Nancy Czermel	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