

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, February 22, 2021

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

For meeting attendance list, please see last page.

Guest(s):

Dr. Julio Flavio Fiore Junior, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Dr. Meghan Clayards, Faculty of Arts

Order was called at 2:32 p.m.

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

1.0 Adoption of the Agenda**CGPS-AGD_2021.02.22**

Motion was made by Jean-Benoit Charron, and seconded by Isabelle G elinas, to adopt the agenda.
Motion carried.

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting**CGPS-MoM_2021.01.25**

Motion was made by Griet Vankeerberghen, and seconded by Tamara Western, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, January 25, 2021. Motion carried.

Business Arising

None

For Approval**3.0 New Graduate Programs:****3.1 Master of Science (M.Sc.) Experimental Surgery (Thesis): Surgical Outcomes Research****CGPS-NP-M.Sc.ExSur-T_SurOutRea_R00**

Presented by: Dr. Julio Flavio Fiore Junior from Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

The Master of Science (M.Sc.) Experimental Surgery (Thesis): Surgical Outcomes Research aims to offer students world-class training in surgical outcomes research and provide the knowledge and skills required for students to start a successful career as surgical outcomes scientists or clinician-scientists. Environmental scans show that the new concentration will offer a unique program at McGill, in Canada and internationally with the potential to attract more local and international students to McGill's Experimental Surgery M.Sc. program. The 45-credit program is made up of 33 credits of required courses, including one new course, EXSU 610 Surgical Outcomes Research Foundations. The remaining 12 credits of complementary courses address key topics in surgical outcomes, including research methods, biostatistics and strategies to measure and improve postoperative outcomes. The new program primarily targets students with a B.Sc. or M.D. degree. Expected enrolment is 5-10 students per year in the first two years and 20-30 students per year within the first five years.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member asked whether many students in this program would be interested in pursuing a Ph.D. and if there is a doctoral program that they can fast track into. Dr. Fiore explained that the current cohort consists of surgical residents taking a break from their residency to pursue their Master's and recent B.Sc. graduates seeking careers in outcomes research. These students have the option of fast tracking to the Ph.D. program in Experimental Surgery.
- A Council member asked about the duration of the program. Dr. Fiore replied that it is a minimum of one year and a half for students with Bachelor's degrees, and one year for residents.

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Motion was made by Stéphanie Chevalier, and seconded by Marie-Hélène Pennestri, to approve the new program. The new program was approved with 20 votes (0 abstain, 0 against); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

3.2 Master of Arts (M.A.) Linguistics (Thesis) CGPS-NP-M.A.Ling-T_R00

Presented by: Dr. Meghan Clayards from Faculty of Arts

The Master of Arts (M.A.) Linguistics (Thesis) provides training in the fundamentals of theoretical and experimental linguistics and is intended to replace the current M.A. Linguistics (Non-Thesis) as the default admissions M.A. The non-thesis program will be retained mostly as an option for Ph.D. back tracking.

Similar to the existing non-thesis program, the 45-credit thesis program will parallel the structure of the Ph.D. program. Students will take required courses in the first year, two graduate seminars in the second year, and the thesis deadline will align with the first Ph.D. evaluation paper deadline. This follows the tradition of training in Linguistics where students complete courses as a cohort. In terms of comparable peer institutions, most other Linguistics programs across Canada have M.A. thesis programs. Enrolment numbers are expected to stay the same, with 1-3 students per year.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member asked for elaboration on retaining the non-thesis program for back tracking purposes. Dr. Clayards explained that they occasionally have students back track for various reasons. This usually occurs after their first Ph.D. evaluation paper. In these cases, students would back track to a M.A. non-thesis and the evaluation paper could be considered a research paper. The department is choosing to retain the non-thesis program as it is procedurally simpler to back track to an M.A. without a thesis requirement.
- A Council member questioned the need for a new program considering that on average only one student would be admitted per year. Dr. Clayards explained that they have students who would prefer to complete a Master's degree instead of fast tracking to the Ph.D. In addition, there is no need for more supervision.
- A Council member questioned whether the time to completion for the thesis was feasible considering the slight difference of 3 credits in required courses between the thesis and non-thesis programs. Dr. Clayards replied that currently non-thesis students write substantial research papers, so she does not foresee issues with the completion of a thesis.
- Dean Nalbantoglu notified Council members that the new concentration will have to be reported to the Ministry for approval.
- A Council member asked about retiring the non-thesis program. SCTP Secretary Cindy Smith replied that this is at the department's discretion.

CGPS requests

- A Council member suggested revising the program description to parallel the existing non-thesis description, indicating what students move on to do after completion of their degree.

Motion was made by Eran Shor, and seconded by Samer Faraj, to approve the new program. The new program was approved with 19 votes (1 abstain, 0 against); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

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For Information**4.0 For Information:****4.1 Minor/Moderate Revisions and Program Retirement [including Low Enrolment/Obsolete] CGPS-RPTP_2021.02.22**

Proposals available upon request.

Councilors' forum

None

Other Business**5.0 Update on Enrolment**

Dean Nalbantoglu provided Council members with an update on overall graduate enrolment as of Fall 2020 and how it was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Data taken from the E-Factbook on McGill's website shows that total enrolment in all programs has increased from 2011 to 2020. In Fall 2020, only enrolment for Master's non-thesis programs has decreased. This year had the highest enrolment numbers for thesis programs. For Fall 2021, application and confirmation numbers have increased and enrolment numbers are expected to be similar to those of Fall 2020.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member asked if deferrals were included in the enrolment numbers and whether exceptions could be made to allow students to defer for more than two semesters due to the Covid-19 situation. Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed that deferrals were not included in the data and informed Council members that accommodations for additional semesters of deferrals are made on a case-by-case basis.
- A Council member asked how the numbers for withdrawals and leaves of absence compare to previous years. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that they are about the same.

6.0 Thesis Project

Dean Nalbantoglu introduced myThesis, an electronic dashboard connected to myProgress intended for initial thesis submission. Approximately two months prior to their expected initial thesis submission, students will be required to complete their "Intent to Submit Thesis" page. At any point after this, a student can submit their list of potential examiners, to be approved by the supervisor(s) and then the GPD. Once the GPD approves, they can send an invitation through myThesis to a desired examiner. Once the examiner accepts, the student can proceed to submit their initial thesis through the "Thesis Submission" page. Upon approval of the supervisor(s), GPD and GPS, the thesis is officially ready for examination. myThesis is set to launch for initial Master's thesis submissions on March 1, 2021.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member asked if the final thesis submission would still be done through Minerva. Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed that it would.
- A Council member asked if myThesis would require GPD signatures. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that signatures were not necessary and that the GPD would provide electronic approval on the dashboard.

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- A Council member asked if the Department Chair would be able to access myThesis to approve the submission when the GPD is in conflict of interest. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that this will be possible within myThesis.
- A Council member asked what happens if students are unable to make their intended deadline to submit. Dean Nalbantoglu informed Council members that students can go in the system and enter a new date. Students will not receive overdue email notifications for the 2-month deadline.
- A Council member asked if GPCs could be given permission to monitor the system. Dean Nalbantoglu explained that although GPCs are not in the workflow for approval paths, they are able to monitor the status of student submissions through myProgress.
- Dean Nalbantoglu informed Council members about upcoming myThesis information sessions for GPDs. User guides will be provided to students, supervisors and GPDs and students can also view a step-by-step instructional video. A resource account will be made available for all myThesis inquiries. If it goes well, myThesis Ph.D. thesis submission is expected to start summer 2021.

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

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Q*	Name	Faculty/Département	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 Gélinas	Medicine and Health Sciences	X		
6	Joaquin Ortega (for 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	Stéphanie Chevalier	Agricultural, Environmental & Science	X		
12	Marta Kobiela	Education	X		
13	Marie-Hélène 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