

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, March 22, 2021

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

For meeting attendance list, please see last page.

Guest(s):

Dr. Chantelle Thauvette, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Dr. Marie-Claude Felton, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Order was called at 2:32 p.m.

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

1.0 Adoption of the Agenda**CGPS-AGD_2021.03.22**

Motion was made by Marie-Hélène Pennestri, and seconded by Chantal Autexier, to adopt the agenda.
Motion carried.

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting**CGPS-MoM_2021.02.22**

Motion was made by Jean-Benoit Charron, and seconded by Isabelle Gélinas, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, February 22, 2021. Motion carried.

Business Arising

None

For Approval**3.0 New Graduate Programs**

None

4.0 Major revision to programs

None

For Information**5.0 For Information:****5.1 Minor/Moderate Revisions and Program Retirement [including Low Enrolment/Obsolete]****CGPS-RPTP_2021.03.22**

Proposals available upon request.

Councilors' forum

None

Other Business**6.0 McGill PhD Outcomes (TRaCE McGill project)**

Presented by: Dr. Chantelle Thauvette from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Dr. Chantelle Thauvette introduced TRaCE McGill – a project directed by Prof. Paul Yachnin. Using both quantitative and qualitative data, TRaCe McGill tracked over 4,500 PhDs who graduated from McGill between 2008 and 2018.

TRaCE McGill was launched in 2019, with a survey that asked PhD graduates about their current position, location, and job satisfaction. This was followed by a data scrape in Fall 2019 that collected information about job titles, location of PhD graduates, employer sector, and job function. Starting in February 2020,

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, March 22, 2021

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

graduate student researchers interviewed PhD graduates, asking graduates to share their insights about their career trajectories, their grad school experiences, and their advice for current students.

The TRaCE McGill data indicate that working outside of the academic sector is common for PhDs across most faculties. TRaCE interviews tell a fuller story of how PhDs integrate their training into their current positions. Published interviews are available on the [TRaCE McGill website](#) and include a built-in option for readers to reach out to PhD graduates. Volunteers are also available to give talks at McGill.

A Career Pathways for PhDs [event series](#) is currently underway. The goal of the series is to connect current students with potential PhD mentors and to connect PhD alumni with their home departments and faculty, so the two can exchange knowledge about doctoral outcomes.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member noted that TRaCE could be a useful resource for GPDs preparing for departmental career fairs. Dr. Thauvette added that it would be possible to share the scrape data for this purpose.
- A Council member asked if the TRaCE project would be an ongoing initiative. Dr. Thauvette replied that they are hoping to continue to provide graduate outcome data to see where these PhDs go next.
- A Council member asked about the narrative editing process. Dr. Thauvette explained that editing was done by four graduate student editors who selected stand-out moments from the interview transcripts to create 1,500-word narratives. Interviewees were also able to revise their narratives before approving them for publication.
- A Council member asked how many graduates chose not to participate in the interviews, and out of those who did, how many did not want their narratives published. Dr. Thauvette replied that it is difficult to determine how many refused to be interviewed as their email addresses may have been outdated; however, out of over 120 graduates contacted to approve their narratives for publication, almost 90% have completed or are completing the approval process.
- A Council member asked if salary was considered a factor in their research. Dr. Thauvette replied that they asked about salary in the survey; however, it was not presented in the quantitative research. In thinking about discussions of salary in published interviews, Dr. Thauvette noted, salary did not tend to be what motivates PhDs in choosing their careers.

7.0 myThesis

Dean Nalbantoglu provided an overview of myThesis, a web tool for initial thesis submission that was launched on March 1, 2021 for Master's students. Whereas the traditional submission process involved paper and/or electronic documents submitted by email and approvals done by wet signature, myThesis uses a web-based system for initial thesis submission, where approvals are electronically confirmed in the system. Supervisors and GPDs receive automatic notification emails prompting them to log in and approve submissions.

myThesis is accessed through the myProgress Hub. The status of the student's initial thesis submission is reflected in their myThesis student record. Their Intent to Submit Thesis, Nomination of Examiners and Thesis Submission pages can be accessed by supervisors, GPDs and GPCs alike. The role of the GPD is to approve the examiner nominations, send invitations to the desired examiner(s), and approve the thesis submission.

Resources available on the myThesis page of the GPS website include student, supervisor and GPD guidelines, an FAQ section, and step-by-step instructions for students with a 10-minute "Quick Tour" video. myThesis is set to launch for PhD students after the April 15th deadline.

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, March 22, 2021

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

CGPS commentary

- A Council member mentioned being unable to accept the examiner invitation as both the GPD and the examiner. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that all Faculty Associate Deans have been granted the security role for approval in such cases.
- Council members asked whether GPCs could receive notifications about the student's intent to submit to ensure auditing is complete before GPD approval. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that GPCs were informed about myThesis at last week's drop-in session. As GPCs use myProgress on a regular basis, they should be looking at myThesis routinely. GPCs have sufficient time to audit records from the time a student completes the Intent to Submit Thesis page to the time when all the approvals happen. The Intent to Submit Thesis page also provides them with a direct link to the student's unofficial transcript and degree audit in myProgress. Furthermore, Dean Nalbantoglu reminded Council members that the Nomination of Examiners page can be submitted before the records are audited.
- A Council member noted that the co-supervisor's name is missing from the notification emails on which they are copied; the primary supervisor's name is the one that appears. In addition, supervisors receive a notification email each time the student revises their intent to submit date. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that she would look into this.

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, March 22, 2021

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

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	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	Bianca Bourgeois (for 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