

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, May 17, 2021

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

For meeting attendance list, please see last page.

Guest:

Dr. Erica Moodie, Medicine and Health Sciences

Order was called at 2:31 p.m.

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

1.0 Adoption of the Agenda**CGPS-AGD_2021.05.17**

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

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting**CGPS-MoM_2021.03.22**

Motion was made by Nicolas Moitessier, and seconded by Griet Vankeerberghen, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, March 22, 2021. Motion carried.

Business Arising

None

For Approval**3.0 New Graduate Programs:****CGPS-NP-Gr.Cert.HlthDataAna-NT_R00****3.1 Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Health Data Analytics 1**

Presented by Dr. Erica Moodie from Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

The Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Health Data Analytics 1 aims to offer strong statistical and computational training to solve emerging problems in public health and biomedical sciences. The training will enable students to clean, manage and analyze data sets, and learn how to interpret and report their findings in a reproducible way. The proposed certificate is geared towards students with an undergraduate degree in a quantitative or science field who may not necessarily have the mathematical background for existing Biostatistics degrees, and international students seeking the flexibility of an online format.

The 15-credit online certificate includes five courses that are taken sequentially over a 10-month period. There are no comparable programs in Canadian universities as most institutions only offer M.Sc. programs on the subject. Internationally, there is a greater mix of similar certificates and master's degrees; however, a health-oriented focus is uncommon. Projected enrolment is 15 students in the first year, 30 in the second, and 45 students a year thereafter.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member asked why the certificate was limited to current graduate students. Dr. Moodie clarified that while all applicants must have an undergraduate degree, the certificate is also open to students already holding graduate degrees.
- A Council member asked if the program would consist of entirely asynchronous online teaching. Dr. Moodie explained that they envision offering office hours and small group meetings between students; however, group work would be optional as time zones may differ.
- A Council member asked if international students still require study permits for online programs. Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed that they don't.
- A Council member asked how tuition fees work for online programs. Dean Nalbantoglu explained that since the government introduced a new funding formula in 2019, international students are

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considered deregulated and pay per credit. Other fees amount to approximately \$1000. If students are not physically at McGill, they are not required to pay for health insurance.

CGPS requests

- A Council member requested that the executive summary be revised to read “mainly asynchronous”.
- A Council member requested that the executive summary be revised to read “graduate certificate” throughout.

Motion was made by Nicolas Moitessier, and seconded by Marta Kobiela, to approve the new program. The new program was unanimously approved with 21 votes (0 abstain, 0 against); 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_2021.05.17**

Proposals available upon request.

4.2 Graduate Student Supervision CGPS_2021.05.17_GradStudSupervision

Dean Nalbantoglu informed Council members about a clarification being made to section 2.9 of the Graduate Student Supervision policy.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member asked if the delegate is always the GPD. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that the delegate is usually the GPD; however, it could be someone else if the GPD is in conflict of interest.
- A Council member asked if the final decision was up to the Chair or the GPD. Dean Nalbantoglu emphasized the importance of Chairs supporting their GPDs. In the Fall session with the Chairs, it will be communicated that GPDs have authority in these situations. In the case of a disagreement, GPDs can appeal to an Associate Dean at GPS.
- A Council member asked if students are kept abreast of the situation throughout the process. Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed that they are.

CGPS requests

- A Council member requested that the policy be revised to specify “10 working days”.

Councilors’ forum

None

Other Business**5.0 Update on Council Plans and Priorities for 2020-2021**

Dean Nalbantoglu updated Council members on the Council Plans and Priorities as listed in the 2020-2021 CGPS Annual Report to APC.

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The four interdisciplinary M.As. that were presented at CGPS this year have been approved by Senate and the dossiers are being translated. The programs should be sent to the *Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire* (BCI) this summer. We should start enrolling students in these programs for Fall 2023; however, there are delays at the BCI due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Funding letters have made visible the funding that students receive over five years, dissociated employment earnings from awards and research stipends, and added a clause that students must apply for external awards during the terms for which they are eligible. Council members were presented with data on McGill external awards for doctoral students demonstrating McGill quotas, offers, and success rates.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member expressed concern for the international student cohort affected by Covid-19, as they are required to be in Quebec six months prior to becoming eligible for FRQs. Dean Nalbantoglu explained that the requirements have changed and that students are now eligible if they are registered in a Quebec institution for two of the last three terms. If they are awarded the scholarship, they must reside in Quebec.
- A Council member asked if research institutes have their own slots for CIHRs. Dean Nalbantoglu responded that since the Tri-Council awards were harmonized in 2019, this is no longer the practice and the applications go through McGill.
- There was discussion about the discrepancy between quotas and the number of offers awarded, and how to improve the success rate. Dean Nalbantoglu emphasized the importance of informing students about awards, supervisor involvement in the application writing process, and encouraging students to participate in University workshops on writing fellowship applications.
- There was discussion about students with low GPAs applying for awards. It was noted that Tri-Council has been taking a more holistic approach to considering students for awards. Dean Nalbantoglu informed Council members about the Comprehensive Admissions Process, whereby students with GPAs below 3.0 can provide letters of support from their departments advocating for their admission. Once recommended by the department, those applications are considered.

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 3:47 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	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 Czommel	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