

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, September 13, 2021

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

For meeting attendance list, please see last page.

Guests:

Assistant Professor Anna Kramer, Engineering
Professor Richard Shearmur, Engineering

Order was called at 2:32 p.m.

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

1.0 Adoption of the Agenda **CGPS-AGD_2021.09.13**
Motion was made by Stéphanie Chevalier, and seconded by Eran Shor, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting **CGPS-MoM_2021.05.17**
Motion was made by Marie-Hélène Pennestri, and seconded by Philippe Depalle, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 17, 2021. Motion carried.

Business Arising

None

New Business

3.0 Welcoming remarks and CGPS Mandate (2021-2022) **CGPS-MM_2021.09.13**

For Approval

4.0 New Graduate Programs:

4.1 Master of Science (M.Sc.) Urban Planning, Policy and Design (Thesis) (45 credits) **CGPS-NP-M.Sc.UrbPlanPolDes-T_R00**

Presented by: Assistant Professor Anna Kramer and Professor Richard Shearmur, Faculty of Engineering

The Master of Science (M.Sc.) Urban Planning, Policy and Design (Thesis) is a one and a half year, 45-credit program centered around an independent thesis with original research on an urban issue related to urban planning, policy, or design. The program focuses on developing critical skills in research, analysis, and interpretation that are applicable in academia and practice. The M.Sc. Urban Planning, Policy and Design (Thesis) would enable the department to diversify their program offerings and differentiate paths for graduate students. The existing Master's of Urban Planning (M.U.P.) is an accredited professional program that is studio- and course-based, and culminates with a Capstone project. The M.Sc. Thesis program would offer a pathway for students interested in the Ph.D. in Urban Planning, Policy and Design or in research-based careers in urban issues in other sectors. Furthermore, the thesis program would enable students to qualify for FRQ and Tri-Council funding.

With the exception of York University, most English urban planning programs at peer institutions across Canada do not offer a Master's thesis option. In Quebec, Université de Montréal offers a similar French-language thesis program. The proposed M.Sc. in Urban Planning, Policy and Design would fill a gap for English-language thesis-based programs with an urban planning focus. Expected enrollment is approximately 10 thesis students per year.

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, September 13, 2021

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

CGPS commentary

- A Council member asked about the job market. Prof. Kramer replied that there are many jobs available for both accredited and non-accredited urban planners. Whereas consulting firms require professional accreditation, there are many jobs in the private sector requiring research skills for urban planners without accreditation.
- A Council member asked whether the department expects to receive extra funding to cover the cost of additional students. Prof. Shearmur explained that additional resources were not required, although the creation of a thesis option would open new avenues for funding.
- A Council member asked if policy and design are subcategories of planning or if these are three distinct areas. Prof. Shearmur replied that the three areas are deeply intertwined.
- A Council member suggested adding “For students, it will offer new pathways to research-based careers in urban issues in the public, private, and non-profit sectors and open up pathways to further academic study” to the program description.
- A Council member asked if all the courses currently exist. Prof. Kramer replied that they modified the Research Seminar course and created the Thesis Submission course. They did not create new course content as the program is focused on research rather than studio work.
- A Council member asked proposers to clarify the definition of “independent” thesis. Prof. Shearmur replied that “independent” is used to distinguish from the current 12-credit supervised research Capstone project. Supervisors are involved as well with an independent thesis.
- A Council member asked if there was a pathway for students from a professional Master’s to a Ph.D. Prof. Kramer replied that the new M.Sc. Thesis will offer a better and easier alternative for that path; however, the Ph.D. program is not closed to students with a professional degree.

CGPS requests

- Council members requested using Canadian spelling in the program description.
- Council members requested elaborating on the need for additional people in the field.

Motion was made by Eran Shor, and seconded by Griet Vankeerberghen, to approve the new program. The new program was unanimously approved with 21 votes; it will be reported to SCIP for approval.

5.0 Major Revisions to Graduate Programs:**5.1 Master of Science (M.Sc.) Mental Health (Thesis) (45 CGPS-MRP-M.Sc.MentalHealth-T_R00 credits)**

Presented by: Dean Josephine Nalbantoglu from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

The department of Psychiatry is requesting that the name of their M.Sc. shift from “Psychiatry” to “Mental Health”. For decades, the department of Psychiatry offered a M.Sc. and an *Ad Hoc* Ph.D. in Psychiatry. At the Ministry’s request, the *Ad Hoc* Ph.D. in Psychiatry was terminated, and the Ph.D. in Mental Health was officially approved and launched in 2020. The department opted for the new title to dispel the misleading impression that students were receiving clinical training in psychiatry and to better reflect the nature of the degree as a program focused on research aimed at better understanding mental health and mental illness. The department would now like to harmonize the names of their graduate degrees.

CGPS commentary

- A Council member brought attention to the fact that 36 of the 45 credits are devoted to the thesis. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that it is common to have fewer courses and more emphasis on research in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, September 13, 2021

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

CGPS requests

- Council members requested that the department make future program revisions including decreasing the thesis credits, adding required courses, listing complementary courses, and potentially adjusting credits for required and complementary courses.

Motion was made by Robert Funnell, and seconded by Marie-Hélène Pennestri, to approve the major revision. The major revision was approved with 19 votes (2 abstentions); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

For Information**6.0 For Information:**

- 6.1 Minor/Moderate Revisions and Program Retirement CGPS-RPTP_2021.09.13**
[including Low Enrolment/Obsolete].

Proposals available upon request.

- 6.2 CGPS Annual Report: Graduate Programs and Policies CGPS-RPT_2020-2021**
approved at Council in 2020-2021

- 6.3 Report for Cotutelle Agreements CGPS-RPTCA_2021.09.13**

Councilors' forum

None

Other Business

- A Council member asked about this year's student enrolment numbers. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that last year's enrolment numbers for Master's Thesis and Ph.D. students were the highest McGill had had, and those numbers were surpassed this year.
- A Council member asked if it was a common trend across departments to have more International and fewer Canadian applicants this year despite the travel restrictions. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that she would compare the numbers across Faculties and present a graph at next month's Council meeting.
- A Council member noted the lack of available study spaces for students at the downtown campus. Dean Nalbantoglu replied that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is looking into larger flex spaces like Redpath Hall, the SSMU Building, and the Thomson House Ballroom.

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 3:38 p.m.