

**COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)**

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, October 18, 2021

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

\*For meeting attendance list, please see last page.\*

Guest:

Dr. Brandon Xia, Biological and Biomedical Engineering

**Order was called at 2:33 p.m.**

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

**1.0 Adoption of the Agenda****CGPS-AGD\_2021.10.18**

Motion was made by Jean-Benoit Charron, and seconded by Stéphanie Chevalier, to adopt the agenda.  
Motion carried.

**2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting****CGPS-MoM\_2021.09.13**

Motion was made by Isabelle Gélinas, and seconded by Pierre Moffatt, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, September 13, 2021. Motion carried.

**Business Arising**

Responding to a question raised at the last meeting about an increase in international applications, Dean Nalbantoglu provided an overview of Fall 2021 admissions. Enrolment data shows an increase of 500 doctoral applicants across the University compared to Fall 2020; 200 of these applicants are from American universities, while another 200 applied from universities overseas.

**New Business**

None

**For Approval****3.0 New Graduate Programs:****3.1 Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) Biological and Biomedical Engineering (45 credits) CGPS-NP-M.Eng.BBME-NT\_R00**

Presented by: Dr. Brandon Xia from Biological and Biomedical Engineering

The Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Biological and Biomedical Engineering (Non-Thesis) aims to provide students with advanced knowledge and competencies in the rapidly evolving fields of biological and biomedical engineering. Whereas the current thesis option is designed to prepare graduate students for thesis-based research activities aligned predominantly with Ph.D. programs, the M.Eng. non-thesis option will equip students with the professional training required to effectively join the non-academic job market.

The four-semester, 45-credit non-thesis program includes 27 credits of coursework and two 9-credit internship courses. Potential candidates should hold a Bachelor's degree in engineering or science with a strong emphasis on mathematics and the physical sciences, and have had some exposure to the life sciences. Similar professionally oriented degrees are offered at peer institutions both nationally and internationally.

CGPS commentary

- Associate Dean Nathan Hall asked about the role of the Graduate Program Director in assisting students with course selection. Dr. Xia confirmed that students will be guided by the Graduate Program Director. He added that the program intends to develop streams tailored to specific fields in the future.

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- A Council member asked how the program would specifically equip non-thesis students with the skills required for the non-academic job market. Dr. Xia replied the non-thesis option will invite students to participate in internship projects in industry and government laboratories. This will make M.Eng. BBME (Non-Thesis) graduates competitive in the new global economy. The department is also in the process of developing more courses related to the applications of technologies (e.g. project management, market analysis and entrepreneurship).
- A Council member asked if the required internships would limit MITACS opportunities for current thesis students. Dr. Xia replied that non-thesis internship training is not in competition with MITACS programs for thesis students, as the thesis program puts emphasis on research and development and the non-thesis option is targeted towards the professional side of the industry. Dean Nalbantoglu added that a research project is required for the MITACS internship; therefore, thesis and non-thesis students will not be competing for resources.

Motion was made by Robert Funnell, and seconded by Jean-Benoit Charron, 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.

**For Information**

**4.0 For Information:**

**4.1 Report #5**

**CGPS-RPTP\_2021.10.18**

Minor/Moderate Revisions and Program Retirement [including Low Enrolment/Obsolete].

**Councilors' forum**

None

**Other Business**

None

**There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 p.m.**