

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, December 13, 2021

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

For meeting attendance list, please see last page.

Guest(s):

Dr. Terry Hébert, Dept. of Pharmacology and Therapeutics

Nicole Whitmarsh, Director of Student Advocacy and University Affairs, Legal Information Clinic at McGill

Order was called at 2:31 p.m.

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

1.0 Adoption of the Agenda

CGPS-AGD_2021.12.13

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

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting

CGPS-MoM_2021.10.18

Motion was made by Marie-Hélène Pennestri, and seconded by Philippe Depalle, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, October 18, 2021. Motion carried.

Business Arising

None

New Business

None

For Approval

3.0 New Graduate Program:

3.1 Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Translational Research (15 credits) CGPS-NP-Gr.Cert.TransResearch-NT_R00

Presented by: Dr. Terry Hébert from the Dept. of Pharmacology and Therapeutics

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Translational Research will offer an introduction to relevant clinical aspects of translating scientific discovery as a means of bridging the gap of knowledge and experience between clinicians and scientists, while promoting future collaboration. Dr. Hébert explained that the new Certificate was developed with graduate students and modelled after a Harvard program. The proposed 1.5-year program will forge its students into successful translational scientists and offer them clinical experience. It addresses a gap at the University, as McGill does not currently offer a purpose-built translational program consisting of coursework, mentorship and community building. Dr. Hébert concluded the presentation with an overview of the study plan, which features two new courses offered by the department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. The program is set to start in Winter 2023.

CGPS commentary

There was lively discussion about the content and the targeted student population for this Certificate. The proposer clarified several aspects relating to the timeline and sequence of offered courses, the format of courses, the participation of international students in what is deemed to be part-time study, and the overall vision for the evolution of the Certificate into a longer Masters program.

The proposer elaborated on the definition of ‘translation’, explaining that students need to learn to translate their research results to be used in medical practice. Therefore, this program targets students who have research experience (including students who had research training during their undergraduate studies).

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-A Council member inquired about teaching with case studies. The proposer confirmed that in FMED 525, students benefit from dissecting cases reflecting successful and unsuccessful translation. In the new courses, students will likely have a similar opportunity.

-A Council member proposed rethinking the program structure to accommodate international students and enabling students to do the Certificate during their graduate studies. The proposer expressed interest in the option and noted they would follow up with their department.

- Dean Nalbantoglu asked if the courses could be taken concurrently instead of sequentially. The proposer said yes, but one of the courses would then need to be taught twice a year.

-Dean Nalbantoglu noted that Council is seeing more graduate certificates because they attract interest, and can be done both concurrently with a degree or as a standalone program.

-The Dean noted that this Certificate and the new courses in particular will serve as a basis for building a graduate program. It will also be useful for creating a stackable Master's program. She suggested pairing the new Certificate with the Graduate Diploma in Clinical Research.

Motion was made by Robert Funnell, and seconded by Jean-Benoit Charron, to approve the new program. The new program was approved with 22 votes (2 abstain, 0 against); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

For Information**4.0 For Information:****4.1 Report #5****CGPS-RPTP_2021.12.13**

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

Councilors' forum

None

Other Business**5.0 Student Advocacy Group of the Legal Information Clinic**

Nicole Whitmarsh, Director of Student Advocacy and University Affairs, presented on the Legal Information Clinic at McGill. It is the largest student-run legal clinic in Canada, offering free and bilingual services to McGill students. It comprises three branches – community services, legal information, and student advocacy. Senior and junior advocates advise their peers, represent them at hearings, and negotiate on their behalf in disciplinary proceedings or other contexts. While the advocates cannot offer legal advice or information, they can advise on McGill policies and they can refer students to appropriate resources. Ms Whitmarsh offered an overview of how the Clinic can assist with grievances and the disciplinary process, before untangling some common misconceptions about the Clinic (e.g., that seeking assistance with them would create reprisals to students). Contact information was shared.

Discussion:

- A Council member asked where to send students who experience issues with their supervisor. Ms Whitmarsh replied that it depends. In any case, Student Advocacy can help the student find who to contact.
- Dean Nalbantoglu pointed out that students may feel more comfortable being accompanied by an advisor in hearings and proceedings, to which Ms Whitmarsh agreed, noting that the goal of the Clinic is to empower.

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at [3:40] p.m.

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Q*	Name	Faculty/Departement	Present	Regrets	Absent
1	Tove Holmes	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	Pierre Moffatt	Medicine and Health Sciences	X		
7	Andrew Cumming	Science	X		
8	Margaret Kalacska	Science	X		
9	Nicolas Moitessier	Science	X		
10	Jean-Benoit Charron	Agricultural, Environmental & Science	X		
11	Stéphanie Chevalier	Agricultural, Environmental & Science	X		
12	Limin Jao	Education	X		
13	Marie-Hélène Pennestri	Education	X		
14	Jinhyuk Lee	Engineering	X		
15	Theodora Vardouli	Engineering		X	
16	Monzur Murshed	Dentistry	X		
17	Brittany Williams	Law	X		
18	Samer Faraj	Management			X
19	Philippe Depalle	Music	X		
21	María Sierra Córdoba Serrano	School of Continuing Studies	X		
21	Hossein Poorhemati	Secretary-General - PGSS (delegate)	X		
22	TBA	Postdoctoral fellow			
23	Soyoun Park	Graduate Student - AES	X		
24	Étienne Poirier	Graduate Student - Arts	X		
25	Jennifer Chen	Graduate Student - Med and Hlth Scis			X
26	Atagün Kejanlioglu	Graduate Student - Law	X		
-	April Colosimo	Libraries (ex-officio)	X		
-	Benoit Boulet (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		
-	Chloe Garcia	Manager, Academic Programs - GPS	X		
-	Maggie Do Couto	Academic Programs Officer - GPS	X		
-	Cindy Smith	SCTP Secretary		X	
-	TBA	Committee Secretary			

*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