

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

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday, April 11, 2022

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

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

Guest(s):

Prof. Alayne Adams (Department of Family Medicine)  
Prof. Yu (Brandon) Xia (Department of Bioengineering)  
Kennedy Kanyang'onda (Department of Family Medicine)

**Order was called at 2:31 p.m.**

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

**1.0 Adoption of the Agenda CGPS-AGD\_2022.04.11**

Motion was made by Isabelle Gélinas, and seconded by Philippe Depalle, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting CGPS-MoM\_2022.03.14**

Motion was made by Monzur Murshed, and seconded by Stéphanie Chevalier, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, March 14, 2022. Motion carried.

**Business Arising**

None.

**For Approval**

**3.0 New Graduate Programs:**

**3.1 M.Eng. Biological and Biomedical Engineering CGPS-NP-BiolBioEngBiomNT\_R00  
(Non-Thesis): Biomanufacturing (45 credits)**

Presented by: Prof. Yu (Brandon) Xia (Department of Bioengineering)

Prof. Xia presented a new concentration in Biomanufacturing for the M.Eng. **Biological and Biomedical Engineering** (Non-Thesis). He highlighted the strong demand within the biomanufacturing sector for highly qualified personnel with knowledge of advanced industrial technologies and process analytics, as well as hands-on experience in the processing of biologics. The proposed program aims to deepen the knowledge of bioengineers through additional specialized courses (including 12 credits of Biomanufacturing core courses), as well as through an internship project at an industrial, academic, or governmental laboratory that will expose students to process development, manufacturing, and project management regulatory compliance. Prof. Xia highlighted Canada's Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy, noting how the proposed concentration furthers its goals—including that of closing the gap in the Canadian bio-economy. The presentation included a comprehensive overview of the program and it was noted that the admissions requirements for the program are the same as that of the parent program (M.Eng., Non-Thesis).

CGPS Discussion

Several Council members inquired about the internship. One member asked if students would have to arrange their own placements. Prof. Xia replied that there will be an internship coordinator who will maintain relationships with partners and help students secure internships. The Chair added that there will also be a faculty member responsible for overseeing the student's assessment. This led Prof. Xia to elaborate on the assessment component, noting that it will be done in conjunction with the internship host. Another member asked whether students would be required to sign confidentiality agreements. Prof. Xia

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replied that they may have to, depending on the nature of the internship. The Chair added that there was already a framework in place at the university for dealing with conflicts of interest.

Motion was made by Nicolas Moitessier, and seconded by Robert Funnell, to approve the program. The new program was approved with 22 votes (0 abstaining, 0 against); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

**3.2 M.Sc. in Family Medicine (Thesis): Global Health (45 credits) CGPS-NP-FamMedGloHealthT\_R00**

Presented by: Prof. Alayne Adams (Department of Family Medicine)

Prof. Adams presented a new concentration in Global Health for the M.Sc. in Family Medicine (Thesis). The proposed program builds on global health expertise in the Department of Family Medicine and is rooted in global primary health care values, including social justice, health equity, and cultural safety. It provides comprehensive training in quantitative and qualitative methods, participatory research, and knowledge translation and exchange—covering topics in policy, practice, innovation, delivery, and management. Students’ theses must engage with a global health issue. Anticipated enrolment is 2-3 students per year. Prof. Adams noted that no similar program exists in Canada, and highlighted the program’s unique focus on decolonizing approaches and its emphasis on disadvantaged or underserved populations.

CGPS Discussion

A Council member asked how the word ‘global’ is defined given the program’s Canadian focus. Prof. Adams noted that this term references the global health issues that manifest in a Canadian context as well as to the diverse, multicultural population of Canada, in addition to the international context. Another Council member asked about the proposed concentration’s relationship to and potential overlap with the new School of Population and Global Health (SPGH). Prof. Adams reiterated the program’s emphasis on primary care (largely absent from SPGH curriculum), but also flagged two (2) SPGH courses that are included in the proposal. The Chair added that SPGH is only in the early stages of developing their own programs.

Motion was made by Marie-Hélène Pennestri, and seconded by Griet Vankeerberghen, to approve the program. The new program was approved with 15 votes (7 abstaining, 1 against); it will be reported to SCTP for approval.

**For Information****4.0 For Information:****4.1 Report #5****CGPS-RPTP\_2022.04.11**

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

**4.2 Ph.D. Comprehensives Policy****CGPS-2022.04.11\_CompExam**

Clarifications to the policy on comprehensive exams were presented to Council for information. The Chair drew attention to a new set of guidelines (on both retrospective and prospective comprehensive exams) that are now provided, noting that the changes to the policy itself are minor. A discussion took place concerning the distinction between evaluation and assessment, including committee consensus and voting, and feedback – all of which are covered in the policy. The clarifications to the policy will now be presented to APC for information.

**Councillors’ forum**

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**None.****Other Business****5.0 University withdrawals in graduate studies**

Council was presented with an overview of University withdrawal policies. These cover course failures, comprehensive exam failures and unsatisfactory progress tracking. GPS has prepared a communication to graduate units with reminders about the various policies, including template letters to inform students of withdrawal decisions. This message will be shared with the units later in April.

**There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m.**

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**Attendance List**

Q*	Name	Faculty/Department	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	Philip Tidwell (for 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	<b>TBA</b>	Postdoctoral fellow			x
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		
27	April Colosimo	Libraries (ex-officio)	x		
28	Benoit Boulet (for Martha Crago)	Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (ex-officio) (delegate)	x		
29	Carolyn Samuel (for Laura Winer)	Director - TLS (ex-officio)	x		
<b>Members with voice but no vote</b>					
-	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		
-	Nicholas Dunn	Academic Programs Officer - GPS	x		
-	Cindy Smith	SCTP 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 they have the right to vote. - Robert's Rules of Order