

Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Minutes of the meeting of the CGPS held on
Monday, February 22, 2:30 pm
James Administration Building, Room 301

Attendance:

Officers:

Josephine Nalbantoglu (Chair)
Audrey Simoneau (Acting secretary)

Elected Members:

Caroline Brown (on behalf of Milica Popovich), Hao Yu Chen, Nancy Czemmell, Samer Faraj, Pengfei Guan, Louis Houle, Aimee K. Ryan, Prashant Keshavmurthy, Cindy Kim, Naguib Mechawar, Meyer Nahon, Andrea Price, Vijaya Raghavan, René Turcotte (on behalf of Dennis Jensen), Elaine Weiner, Lena Weman Ericsson

Ex-Officio:

Robin Beech, France Bouthillier, Alison Crump, Maggie Do Couto, Jean-Jacques Lebrun, Devin Mills, Laura Winer

Regrets:

Monzur Murshed, Laura Nilson, Elisa Pylkkanen, Michael Van Dussen

Absent:

Natheer Alatawneh, Gordon Bloom, Derek Bowie, Lara Braitstein, Sebastien Breau, Benoît Côté, Peter Grutter, Stephanie Law, Cindy Smith

Guest(s):

Professor Julia Krane from School of Social Work

Order was called at 2:35 pm.

Dean Nalbantoglu confirmed that with 16 voting members, we had a quorum (which is 14 voting members).

123 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion was made by Vijaya Raghavan, and seconded by Samer Faraj, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

124 Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2016

CGPS.15.23– MinJan18_16

Motion was made by Pengfei Guan, and seconded by Naguib Mechawar, to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

125 Business Arising

Dean Nalbantoglu provided updates on the 4 policies that were approved at the CGPS meeting on January 18, 2016. The 4 policies were presented to Academic Policy Committee (APC) on February 18, 2016 and were passed. They will be reported to Senate and once they are approved, the revisions to these policies will be reflected in the 2016-2017 E-Calendar.

1. Admission of Former Students Policy:

Dean Nalbantoglu reminded Council members about the proposed removal of reinstatement, and then provided further information about the implications of this change on registration expectations, as follows:

- Student must register continuously in every term during their program;
- Students normally must register by the end of add/drop;
- Students who don't register continuously will be withdrawn and required to apply for readmission.

Enrolment Services will finalized details regarding the readmission procedures along with a grid displaying program progression. This policy revision was accepted with no changes by APC.

2. Time Limitation Policy:

APC accepted the revisions to this policy, which removed the option of reinstatement to reflect changes made to the Readmission of Former Students policy.

3. Regulations on Graduate Student Supervision:

APC requested an amendment be made to section 2.3. Rather than say “Professors who retire...” the revised regulation now reads: “When a thesis supervisor retires or resigns from the University, they cannot act as sole supervisor ...”

4. Regulations on Graduate Students Research Progress Tracking:

APC accepted the addition of section 2.9, which states that Graduate Programs Directors are required to sign off on students' progress reports.

For Approval

New Programs:

Master of Social Work – Thesis – Gender & Women’s Studies

CGPS.15.24-MSW_T_GWS

Presented by:

Professor Julia Krane from School of Social Work

Prof. Krane explained that there have been few thesis students or applicants to the MSW program. For example, this year, there were only 6 applicants to the Master of Social Work (MSW) thesis program out of approximately 180 new applicants. With this new option to the thesis program, Prof. Krane hopes it will attract more students.

Anyone applying to the Gender and Women’s Studies option will incorporate the themes of the option into their thesis. Prof. Krane explained that this is stated explicitly on the Social Work website.

During the question period, some Council members pointed out some typographical errors on the proposal. Also, it was suggested that the description of the program specify that the thesis topic be related to Gender and Women's Studies. Council members wanted to know how many students this new proposal would attract. Prof. Krane replied that the option might attract 1 or 2 more student(s), given the trend for most students to apply to the Non-Thesis MSW.

There was a question about how usual it was to create a new program for such a small number of potential students. Associate Dean France Bouthillier responded that it was not what GPS usually promotes, but there is no extra financial cost to this option. Dean Nalbantoglu added that there is critical mass of students taking the Gender and Women's Studies option across many programs. She also clarified that this program proposal does not require Ministry approval as it is an option to an existing program.

Motion was made by Devin Mills, and seconded by Louis Houle. The approval of the new program was voted in favor by 14 members and 2 were against.

Major Program Revisions:

Ph.D. in Anthropology

CGPS.15.25_Ph.D_Anthro

Presented by:

Prof. France Bouthillier, Associate Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS)

(on behalf of Prof. Ismael Vaccaro)

Prof. Bouthillier explained that while it looks like many revisions are being proposed, they are simply meant to have the actual program reflected in the e-calendar. The biggest change is the addition of the pro-seminar in Anthropology, which will prepare students for their fieldwork.

The proposed revisions add more theoretical components into 2 sets of complementary courses that students can choose between - Categories A or B. These changes reflect what is happening in the current practice.

During the question period, there was discussion about elaborating on the terms used for describing the courses, as it is very generic. Prof. Bouthillier explained that using generic course titles ensures flexibility in the course content as topics may change from year to year. The department will explain and advise their students appropriately.

Dean Nalbantoglu reassured the Council members that even if the program has a lot of credits, the students in the program are successful.

Motion was made by Samer Faraj, and seconded by Lena Weman. The approval of the revised program was voted unanimously by all the members.

126 For Information:

CGPS Report 3

**Minor/Moderate Revisions to Graduate Programs including Retirements
3_2015.03**

CGPS.15.03-Report

The Report on Minor and Moderate revisions to graduate programs was presented for information.

One Council member commented that times to completion in Social Sciences and Humanities are normally longer than in STEM disciplines.

There was no further discussion

127 Councilors' Forum

Since this year, Faculty Associate Deans have been getting pressure from GPS to spend their GEF money earlier. The practice was that the Faculty Associate Deans were keeping the extra a bit longer as a security blanket. The Dean commented that the earlier the money is spent, the earlier students feel supported.

128 Other Business

None

There being no further business, all were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 3:18 p.m.