

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES (CGPS)

James Administration Building, Room 301

Date: 01-13-2020

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

For meeting attendance list, please see last page.

Guest(s):

Prof. Kimiz Dalkir and Benjamin Fung, School of Information Studies
Maggie Lattuca, Teaching and Learning Services

Order was called at 2:34 p.m.

Josephine Nalbantoglu confirmed quorum.

1.0 Adoption of the Agenda

CGPS-AGD_2020.01.13

Motion was made by Lindsay Duncan, and seconded by Russell Steele, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes of Meeting

CGPS-MoM_2019.12.02

Motion was made by Bruno Belzile, and seconded by Griet Vankeerberghen, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, December 02, 2019. Motion carried.

Business Arising

None

For Approval

3.0 New Graduate Programs:

3.1 Certificate in Cybersecurity (15 credits)

CGPS-NP-Gr.Certi.Cybersecurity_R00

Presented by: Profs. Dalkir and Fung; Ms. Lattuca

The proposers presented a new Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity, which will be offered online by the School of Information Studies. They argued that there is a need for a cybersecurity workforce with technological and risk management skills. The proposers explained that the Certificate's five courses are designed around network processes and attacks. They elaborated on the structure for the online Certificate and explained admission requirements. Proposers highlighted that they are seeking applicants with bachelor degrees in related fields (e.g., computer science, information studies) or professionals with at least 6 years of industrial experience. This new graduate Certificate stands apart from existing Cybersecurity degrees, which generally target undergraduate populations and are usually either technical or targeted towards managers. The presentation was concluded with a brief review of the applied 'community of inquiry' framework.

CGPS commentary:

- A Council member asked about the hiring of sessional instructors to teach the five courses. Proposers reassured Council that the School of Information Studies already relies on sessional instructors to teach the majorits



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therefore students might not have a choice but to take a course a semester. Proposers will take this in consideration.

- A Council member asked whether a Master's student could take these courses for credit. The answer is no; however, they can do the certificate after completing their degree.
- Another Council member inquired about their current enrolment numbers for graduate certificates. Proposers reported low enrolment. However, there seems to be student interest in online programs.
- Council members addressed admission requirements. It was suggested that proposers open the program to students from different fields, including the social sciences and humanities, and that they reduce the GPA requirement to 3.0.

CGPS discussion:

- Two Council members noted discrepancies in the executive summary. It was advised that proposers review their distribution of credits and contact Cindy Smith.
- There was concern about the estimated enrolment and revenue, however



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option for departments to consider. At the moment, only Education has implemented a cumulative Master's degree.

- It was noted that a cumulative Master's degree can take up to ten years, since a typical certificate can be completed in 3 years. There was some concern around students' access to the Library between certificates and during semesters where they are not registered. It was confirmed that typically, students only need to declare their intention to do the cumulative Master's after the second certificate, so students do not remain registered in a cumulative Master's for ten years.
- **Council recommended that the framework document specify that the cumulative Master's is non-thesis.**

The new program was unanimously approved; it will be reported to APC for approval.

