

## Minutes of CGSR Meeting #14 on 12/15/2016

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in B-term 2016 on December 15, 2016 (Thursday) in Gordon Library Conference Room 303.

Present: K. Burnett (GS), R. Rao, A. Zeng, S. Scarlata, T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies)

Absent: K. Troy (off-campus project advising), A. Deskins (off-campus project advising), M. Demetriou, and B. Vernescu (Vice Provost for Research)

Guests: S. Miles (Registrar), K. McAdams (Academic Program), M. McGrade (Director of Graduate Admission)

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Professor A. Zeng (Chair pro tem) called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM

1. Minutes of 12/08/2016 were approved.
2. The Committee reviewed and approved the motion from the Foisie School of Business to convert a special topic course (an experimental course) in the area of Operations and Industrial Engineering to a permanent offering.
3. The Committee continued the discussion of the motion to broaden graduate course grading by adding +/- in graduate courses. K. Burnett (Graduate Student rep) reviewed again the results of her short survey of selected graduate students (29 respondents). S. Miles (Registrar) shared her benchmarking results from the 10 institutions selected by the Institute of Research Office, which show that 6 out of the 10 universities are using plus/minus grading system (Details are attached in the Appendix). Everyone at the meeting shared their opinions about this grading policy. It was agreed that the next step is for K. Burnett and S. Miles to attend the Graduate Coordinator Meeting in February to share their results and to solicit more inputs from the members from that group.
4. Old Business: BME Certificates motion was discussed at the Graduate Coordinators Meeting on December 14, 2016, and the faculty indicated that they were in support of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Zeng, CGSR secretary (B16)

Appendix: Benchmarking Study of Using +/- Grading System at Selected Universities

<b>Institution</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>Grade limit</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Cal Tech	Y	A to D+	Very different system - units are the total time spent in class, so could be up to 15, and that is divided by the number of credits earned (and also minimum gpa is 1.9)
Carnegie Mellon	N		ABCD and R - also they have a Conditional Failure grade of X
Clarkson	Y	A+ to C	C is lowest passing grade for graduates; A+ and A carry same numeric value
Drexel	Y	A+ to D+	They get an A+ for making it easy to find their grading scale; A+ and A carry same numeric value
Illinois IT	N		
MIT	N		But they say this: Note that the MIT internal grading system includes plus (+) and minus (-) modifiers for use with the letter grades A, B, and C for all academic subjects (except advanced standing exams). These modifiers appear only on internal grade reports. They do not appear on transcripts and are not used in calculating term or cumulative grade-point averages. The MIT grading system for external purposes does not include modifiers. Also, they have a 5.0 system, but give instructions for converting to a 4.0
RPI	Y	A to C-	Actually goes to D+ but that is only for undergraduates; appears to have added the +/- in 2005
RIT	Y	A to C-	
Stevens IT	Y	A to C-	Goes to D+ but nothing below a C- is eligible for graduate students unless it's an F; made applicable to graduate students in Spring 2009
Tufts	N		They get an F+ for making it ridiculously hard to find their grading scale