

Minutes from CGSR Meeting #3 on 9/15/2016

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 3rd meeting of A-term 2016 on September 15, 2016 (Thursday) in Higgins Labs, Room 102.

Present: M. Demetriou (Chair), K. Burnett (GS), K. Troy (Secretary), A. Zeng, S. Scarlata, R. Rao, T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies), B. Vernescu (Vice Provost for Research),

Absent: A. Deskins

Guests: S. Miles (Registrar), K. McAdams

Professor Demetriou called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM

1. The minutes from September 8 were approved.
2. Motion to Approve Course Proposal for CS5007: George Heineman described the proposed course CS5007. It is one semester long. All students are expected to be at the graduate level. Staffing will not be a problem. There is on-line version of the course. This course was approved.
3. A graduate petition was presented by the Registrar. The petitioner requests that credits be transferred from another University to WPI to count towards a MS degree. The issue is that the student has already applied for, and received, a certificate from the other University, which used that coursework. The current policy in the Graduate Handbook states that credits applied towards other degrees cannot be transferred. The consensus is that a certificate is NOT a degree, and therefore the transfer should be allowed. The petition was approved. Furthermore, the graduate catalog will be clarified in several locations to clearly state that certificates are distinct from degrees, and credits counted towards certificates can, indeed, be used towards a degree, so long as the other rules regarding transfers and degree requirements are met.
4. The TOEFL discussion was revisited, but postponed. Departmental data will be presented by Michael McGrade on September 22.
5. New Business: The issue of graduate student ethics training was raised. The NIH requires this. Some departments cover this topic, but it's variable. A suggestion was raised to have a required course for all incoming students, taught by a knowledgeable person.
 - Academic integrity is discussed at graduate student orientation, but it is not very in depth
 - This sort of course could be delivered online, possibly via a "subscription" similar to the CITI Human Subjects training, but grad students have favorable reviews of the course that is offered by Pam Weathers in BBT. This course may not be very generalizable to other disciplines, due to the life-sciences focus of the content.
 - ME offers an annual seminar on ethics, based on the ASME Code of Ethics. This is one hour, in contrast to the BBT course, which is a total of 15 hours.
 - Discussion will continue on this in the future.
6. Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy revision: according to the faculty handbook, there is an annual COI form and COI forms signed when a proposal is submitted, and this is managed between OSP and the Compliance Officer. With the new version, there is 1 COI form that will be completed online per year. Different federal agencies have differing requirements. The revised version will satisfy the NIH requirements. B.

Vernescu will present the revised COI to CGSR and to COG, and there will be an open session to explain the new policies and implementation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Troy, CGSR Secretary (A term)