

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #5 on 09/25/2017

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 5th meeting during AY 2017-18 on September 25 (Monday) in Gateway I Conference Room, 4101

Present: Reeta Rao (BBT), Michael Timko (ChE), Adrienne Weishaar (graduate student, CEE), Amy Zeng (FBS), Suzanne Scarlata (CBC), Karen Troy (BME)

Guests: Sarah Miles (Registrar), Kristin McAdams (Academic Program)

Absent: Bogdan Vernescu (Vice Provost for Research), Gregory Fischer (RBE), Terri Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies)

K. Troy called the meeting to order at 11am.

1. **Administrative.** Minutes of the 4th meeting were approved.
2. **Interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs in Materials Chemistry and Physics Education Research.** A petition for an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Materials Chemistry was reviewed. CGSR approved the petition pending several modifications: 1) confirming whether the degree for this particular student would constitute 60 or 90 credits (depending on application of a previous M.S. degree in polymer chemistry) and 2) removing transfer credits and adding 1-credit courses on ethics and technical writing. Similarly, a petition for an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Physics Education Research was reviewed. CGSR will request clarification on two issues: 1) whether Physics is the appropriate department for housing this program (as proposed) or if Learning Sciences is more appropriate given the stated aims and 2) the content of the qualifying exam. Ensuing discussion focused on the availability of a template and guidelines for development of future interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs.
3. **Revised Financial Information Section for Graduate Catalog.** Short discussion on a revised proposal for the Financial Information Section of the Graduate Catalog. The revised proposal includes a new category of student support, a "graduate assistant", which covers small hourly or project-specific tasks for students. This proposal was approved.
4. **Course limits for non-degree students.** Short discussion on the credit limits for non-degree students; the current proposals limits the number of credits to 9 for non-degree students, whereas FBS and CPE place the limit at 6 credits.
5. **On-line course evaluations.** CGSR recognizes that it is reasonable to move course evaluations to an online format in the future. Potential concerns include student compliance/response rates, confidentiality, and availability of written comments to faculty and staff other than the course instructor. Given that the details of implementation have yet to be worked out, CGSR would like to await the result of the on-line course evaluation task force prior to officially endorsing a policy for on-line course evaluations.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Timko, Chemical Engineering