

Minutes from CGSR Meeting #5 on 9/29/2016

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 5th meeting of A-term 2016 on September 29, 2016 (Thursday) in Higgins Labs, Room 102.

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

Absent: A. Zeng,

Guests: S. Miles (Registrar), Kristan Coffey (HR), Tanja Dominko (COG)

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

1. The minutes from September 22 were approved.
2. The Childbirth Accommodation Policy for Graduate Students was presented by Dean Camesano. The policy covers graduate students who give birth to or adopt a child while being supported through a TA or RA, and allows them the same benefits as other employees. While the student is on leave (up to 8 weeks) funds will be provided to support a grader that can assist a department in covering TA duties. The graduate student would receive continued funding for the duration of their leave, up to 8 weeks. Several questions were asked:
 - Would all TAs and RAs be covered, or just those who had been at the University for a certain period of time? All would be eligible, but if a student was expecting a child during her first semester in the graduate program, it might make more sense for the student to defer their start date.
 - Where would the money to cover the graders come from? At this time it will be covered by the Provost or Dean's office.
 - How many students is this likely to impact? We anticipate 2-4 per year. Similar accommodations are already being made, but this policy formalizes it and the process for students.
 - What about male students? The University Parental Leave policy, which provides up to 2 weeks, applies to these students.
 - There are some issues that need to be addressed for student enrollment. For a student to be considered full time, they must be enrolled for at least 1 credit hour. This may especially affect international students. The Registrar is working on simplifying this from an administrative perspective.

The next step is to speak with the international house and determine whether any additional protections or changes are needed to cover international students. CGSR felt satisfied with the policy presented, pending minor edits, but did not vote to endorse it yet.

3. Conflict of Interest Policy: The COI policy was presented by B. Vernescu. It has been revised to be more clear and to be fully compliant with funding agency requirements. The new version will be completed by faculty once per year, in electronic format. It specifies exactly what sorts of conflicts must be disclosed. CGSR endorses this policy.
4. TA Evaluations: were mentioned as an agenda item for next week.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Troy, CGSR Secretary (A term)