

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #12 on 1/14/2019

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 12th meeting of AY '18/'19 on January 14, 2019 (Monday) in FI 207.

Present: S. Scarlata (Co-Chair), R. Rao (Co-Chair), S. Johnson, M. Rolle, G. Fischer, T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies), M. Timko

Absent: B. Choate (GS), B. Vernescu (Vice Provost for Research)

Guests: Kristin McAdams (Academic Program), Michael McGrade (Dean of Graduate Admissions), Christine Love (Registrar)

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

1. The minutes of the December 11, 2019 meeting were approved.
2. Prof. Rao introduced a discussion of the Ph.D. degrees in social sciences, SSPS, and systems dynamics, SD, which appeared incorrectly at various times as interdisciplinary degrees. M. McGrade explained that these programs were difficult to track as the degrees were not recognized in Banner, forcing these students to be listed in the interdisciplinary (ID) track. As a result, the SD and SSPS students could not be tracked independently of true ID students. CGSR will recommend to Prof. Emily Douglas, chair of SS, that she locate the meeting minutes of the approval of the ID SSPS Ph.D. degree, so that it can be replaced by the SD Ph.D. while dropping the ID tag.
3. ID Section of the Graduate Catalog. CGSR discussed differentiating between established ID programs, such as those in RBE and neuroscience, and degrees that are developed by the students themselves. The former will be listed along with their standard curriculum in the graduate catalog, whereas the latter will be described in general, but not in specific, since these are defined on an *ad hoc* basis by their very nature. However, the process for defining individually defined programs should be made clear in the graduate catalog. The committee suggested changing the section titled "Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Programs" to "Individually Designed Ph.D. Degrees", changing "programs" to "degrees" and removing all references to existing programs. Likewise, all interdisciplinary programs (e.g., RBE, neuroscience) should be moved into their own sections so that they appear at the same organizational level as departments. Lastly, CGSR proposed making a new sub-section on interdepartmental courses, for example existing (or new) professional development courses that do not fall within any department or program. This will make the graduate catalog clearer and more internally consistent. Several other questions on individually designed graduate degrees were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Timko
CGSR secretary (C19)