

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #1 on 9/17/2018

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) its 1st meeting of AY '18/'19 on September 17, 2018 (Monday) in Gateway Park I room GP 4104.

Present: S. Scarlata (Co-Chair), R. Rao (Co-Chair), B. Choate (GS), G. Fischer, M. Rolle, M. Timko, S. Miles (Registrar).

Absent: S. Johnson, T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies), K. McAdams (Academic Program), M. McGrade (Graduate Admission), B. Vernescu (Vice Provost for Research)

Guests: N/A

Professor Scarlata called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM

1. Selected Secretary of CGSR for A term '18
 - a. Marsha Rolle (Biomedical Engineering) will serve as Secretary for A term
2. Reviewed updates on ongoing business continuing AY '18/'19
 - a. UMass Joint Graduate Program is open to any PhD program at WPI. Two students from WPI and one student from UMMS are enrolled this year.
 - b. Workday is coming online October 1. Tableau, data visualization software that can interface with Workday and Banner, is already in use by some divisions. Tableau enables access to program data in more easy to use format.
 - c. Graduate Catalog clean-up – work will continue this year to update the catalog and remove outdated policies and programs.
 - d. CAP/CGSR Sub-Committee on Online Student Course Reports – P. Stapleton represented CGSR on the committee, and will be invited to continue.
3. Graduate student tuition credits. Rationale: WPI tuition is more expensive than other universities, which impacts grant expenditures and number of PhD students supported by grants, even with current 50% tuition discount for funded research. Increasing PhD students and funded research aligns with the Strategic Plan, thus this issue should be a priority for the upcoming APBP. This pertains mainly to BME 699 credits for PhD students who have passed their qualifying exams and advanced to candidacy, and are primarily taking dissertation research credits. Potential options for reducing BME 699 tuition expenditures: 1) reduce number of 699 credits required, 2) reduce tuition on 699, or 3) reduce tuition on funded grants to 10% for 699. Analysis of the financial impact of each option has been compiled. Following up with a plan of action is a CGSR priority.
4. Discussed concepts for multidisciplinary research centers/graduate programs; how to fund and organize them. This is a priority of the Board of Trustees Academic Programs Committee (APC). Provost Soboyejo will be invited to a CGSR meeting to discuss.
5. Discussion of a motion for graduate program in Nuclear Science and Engineering. The originator, D. Medich, will be invited to the next CGSR meeting to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Rolle
CGSR secretary (A18)