

## Minutes of CGSR Meeting #12 on 5/1/2023

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its **twelfth meeting** of AY '22/'23 on **May 1, 2023 (Monday)** via Zoom.

**Present:** D. Medich (PH, Chair), Y. Telliell (HuA, Secretary), L. Fichera (RBE), S. Olson (MA), T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies), A. Wyglinski (Associate Dean of Graduate Studies)

**Guests:** S. Miles (University Registrar), M. Terrio (Executive Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions)

Professor Medich called the meeting to order at 11:03 am (US Eastern Time).

1. The minutes of meeting #11 (AY '22/'23) were reviewed and approved with minor edits.
2. The committee continued the discussion regarding a CHE request to transfer credits beyond the conventional amount. The committee decided to first determine if the student can get an MS degree from his previous institution. If this is possible, WPI then could match 1/3 of the remaining 60 credits, as stated in WPI policy. Dean Camesano will discuss this option with Professor S. Roberts, CHE's department head.
3. The committee reviewed Professor S. Strauss' Community Climate Adaptation course proposals. The committee had questions about the course descriptions and titles, and requested more information.
  - a. Professor Medich communicated these questions to Professor Strauss after the meeting. On May 2, after Professor Strauss' clarifications, the committee e-approved *IGS 596: Special Topics in Integrative and Global Studies* and *IGS 597: Independent Study in Integrative and Global Studies*.
4. The committee discussed Professor Karen Oates' interdisciplinary proposal for an MS program in Global Health.
  - a. A committee member noted that students are expected to take classes in summer (12 credits in Fall, 12 credits in Spring, and 6 credits in Summer) as the program is structured to be completed in a year. Another committee member added that the proposed course schedule is not flexible for the type of graduate students that WPI attracts. The Registrar's Office data suggests that (1) very few full-time students want to take classes during summer months, and (2) international students prefer to be registered in a program for a period longer than 12 months (shorter periods of study can pose challenges for visa applications and arrangements).
  - b. The proposal states that "although it is a 12-month program, students can opt for an 18 month schedule". The committee decided to request more information on how the program leadership will ensure such flexibility.
  - c. Some committee members highlighted that since there is a large elective pool, the program might need to rely on the courses offered by other departments

and programs. The committee will request more information about the proposed course planning and advising in the program.

- d. Noting that the proposed program is engineering intensive, the committee asked: Why is this a Global School program if almost all educational courses are engineering courses?
  - i. Professor Medich communicated these concerns to Professor Oates after the meeting. In response, Professor Oates told the committee that a revised version of the proposal will be ready for the first CGSR meeting of AY 2023-24.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am