

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #10 on 2/18/2021

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 10th meeting of 2020-21 on February 18, 2021 (Thursday) via Zoom.

Present: T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies), M. Demetriou (AE), L. Fichera (RBE), S. Johnson (FBS), D. Korkin (CS), J. Petitto (BCB, GS), M. Rolle (BME, Chair), S. Shell (BBT), B. Vernescu (Vice Provost Research)

Guests: R. Flinn (Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies), K. McAdams (Director Academic Programs), S. Miles (Registrar), M. Popovic (RBE), M. Terrio (Executive Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions)

Prof. Rolle called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

1. The minutes of meeting #9 were approved.
2. The new GSG representative, Jocelyn Petitto, was welcomed to the committee.
3. Two motions related to the MS in Operations Management and Analysis were presented by the FBS (S. Johnson) and approved. The first motion presented revisions to degree requirements to adopt a stackable structure and to retitle the degree MS in Operations and Supply Chain Analytics (MS OSCA). The second motion removed the existing MS in Supply Chain Management (SCM), to reduce overlap between degrees. The implementation date for the removal was discussed; Fall 2021 is feasible.
4. A motion to change the repeat policy for graduate students to mirror the policy for undergraduate students was presented and approved (S. Miles). Currently the most recent course is counted; the new policy counts the best grade toward the GPA. This mirrors a policy approved in Spring 2019 for undergraduates, wherein only the best grade and its associated credit is counted toward the degree. When a graduate student repeats a course, both courses remain on the transcript, but only one is counted toward the GPA.
5. M. Popovic joined the meeting to discuss adding the courses RBE 560 – Space Robotics I and RBE 561 - Space Robotics II. The material previously has been presented in a special topics course, RBE 595 Special Topics: Space and Planetary Robotics. The motion was tabled, with a request to streamline the motion text and to speak with Aerospace Engineering to clarify potential overlap in material.
6. M. Rolle shared a slide deck on the Strategic Plan provided by Amy Morton. Faculty Governance Committee Chairs met with President Leshin, Provost Soboyejo and Amy Morton earlier in the week to discuss the Strategic Plan, with the goal to then share and solicit committee feedback. Overall, the plan is structured to respond to key trends and is organized around three major themes. CGSR discussion focused on aspects specific to graduate education and research. B. Vernescu indicated that research efforts in the Strategic Plan will focus around the 4 interdisciplinary groups that have

been formed; individual efforts that might not fit into these groups was briefly discussed. In graduate education, T. Camesano highlighted the focus on developing programs to ensure graduates can be agile and rapidly reskill, mainly in post-baccalaureate continuing education opportunities. Updates and additional discussion of the strategic plan will occur in future meetings.

7. A motion to add a 1-credit option to the 0-credit ID 500 – Responsible Conduct of Research was discussed and tabled. R. Flinn joined the meeting to present the rationale, to support including the course as part of degree requirements and to demonstrate WPI's recognition of the importance of the subject. Options for reducing financial barriers were discussed and will be explored further; it was noted that 0-credit courses can also be required.
8. Two computer science course motions (from C. Shue) were approved electronically, specifically to:
 - Reduce the MS in CS from 33 credits to 30 credits
 - Remove limitations on 4000-level courses that can count for BS/MS.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Johnson
FBS
Secretary