

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #12 on 4/2/2020

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 12th meeting of AY '19/'20 on April 2, 2020 (Thursday) via Zoom.

Present: G. Fischer (ME, Chair), M. Rolle (BME), H. Walker (CEE, Secretary), T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies), Katie Gandomi (Robotics), M. Demetriou (ME), S. Johnson (FBS), B. Vernescu (Vice Provost Research

Guests: K. McAdams (Director of Academic Program Planning), M. McGrade (Dean of Graduate Enrollment Services), Sarah Miles (Registrar), A. Harnisch (Assistant VP Research)

Prof. Fischer called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

1. The minutes of Meeting #11 were reviewed and approved.
2. Motion to adjust process for online course reports of undergraduate and graduate classes for D-2020 term, and graduate classes for the Spring 2020 semester. This motion was drafted and approved by CAP and they would like to forward this to the faculty as a joint motion with CGSR. The motion was reviewed and approved.
3. P/NC Grading for Graduate Students. Dean Camesano updated the committee on the need for more flexible grading for graduate courses during the Covid-19 pandemic. In light of the recent grading policy approved for undergraduates, the committee agreed it would be beneficial to have a similar policy for graduate students. The committee agreed No Credit (NC) was more appropriate for graduate courses than Fail. The committee also felt any policy should not override program specific grading requirements. Therefore, graduate students should be made aware that choosing P/NC grading may have consequences at the program level as well as with respect to fellowships, VISAs, employer benefits, etc. The committee agreed to draft a joint motion with CAP and approve by e-vote so it can be forwarded to the full faculty as soon as possible.
4. Motion 20-034 - New Applied Physics Graduate Program. This motion was approved at the last meeting, pending minor changes to the proposal. The committee reviewed the updated proposal. No additional changes are required.
5. Motion 20-042 - RBE500 Course Description Update. This motion updates the catalog description for Robotics RBE500 to better standardize the content given multiple instructors have taught the course. The motion was approved pending the fixing of one typo.
6. Motion 20-043 - Chem Eng BS/MS Policy. This motion allows for the double counting of 4000 level courses in the Chemical Engineering BS/MS program. Per WPI policy, the registrar currently allows double counting of up to 40% of credits. The proposed policy by Chemical Engineering is consistent with WPI policy. The motion was approved.

7. Motion 20-033 - Science, Engineering, and Innovation for Global Development. The committee reviewed an updated motion for this new program. The motion for the MS Program was approved. The motion for the combined BS/MS program was approved pending requested revisions.
8. Graduate Learning Outcomes. The committee reviewed the draft learning outcomes for graduate programs. The committee discussed the ability of programs to assess the outcome on ethics (“Possess the ability to conduct their work in an ethical and responsible manner”). The committee decided it would be worthwhile to solicit feedback on this outcome from individual graduate programs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Harold Walker
Secretary