

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #12 on 5/5/2022

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its twelfth meeting of AY '21/'22 on May 5, 2022 (Thursday) via Zoom.

Present: D. Korkin (CS, Chair), S. Shell (BBT, Secretary), L. Fichera (RBE), D. Medich (PH), T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies), M. Demetriou (AE), J. Tourtellotte (BCB, GS).

Guests: S. Miles (Registrar), K. McAdams (Director of Academic Program Planning), S. Chiaramonte (Associate Vice President, Graduate Studies), M. Terrio (Executive Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions), Purvi Shah (BS), Diane Strong (BS), Pratap Rao (ME).

Prof. Korkin called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

1. The minutes of meeting #11 were reviewed and approved.
2. Voting item (Discussion/Voting phase): Motion for a dual Mechanical Engineering - Engineering Management (ME - EM) MS degree, to be offered jointly by the ME Graduate Program and the Business School.
 - a. Professors Shah, Strong, and Rao joined the meeting at 3:11 pm.
 - b. The proposed dual degree program would double-count courses in both directions. There was discussion about whether this type of double-counting is allowable by the accreditation agency (NECHE).
 - c. The proposal sponsors were advised to speak with NECHE again to seek clarification.
 - d. The committee recommended adding language to the motion to clarify that all courses required for the dual degrees will be offered with sufficient frequency.
 - e. Professors Shah, Strong, and Rao left the meeting at 3:41 pm.
3. Discussion item: Report from the Demand Driven Programs working groups as part of the University Strategic Initiatives (S. Chiaramonte and M. Terrio).
 - a. Associate Vice President Chiaramonte and Executive Director Terrio joined the meeting.
 - b. Associate Vice President Chiaramonte shared the following ideas that the working group has been discussing:
 - i. Goals of the initiative include streamlining development and implementation of new programs to maximize the likelihood of new programs being successful as well as save faculty time.
 - ii. The initiative would provide faculty with a framework for developing and proposing new programs.
 - iii. Use of the framework and associated resources would be suggested but not required for faculty seeking to develop new programs.
 - iv. The framework would recommend working with the budget office prior to bringing proposals to CGSR.
 - v. The framework would recommend periodic assessment of new programs to determine if they are meeting enrollment objectives and identify needs for different advertising or other modifications.
 - vi. The framework would seek to ensure that there is adequate investment in new programs to ensure their success.

- c. The working group plans to solicit further feedback from stakeholders and then submit a document to CGSR for endorsement.
 - d. Associate Vice President Chiamonte left the meeting at 4:00 pm.

- 4. Voting item: Petition by a student to Attend Graduate Commencement Ceremony (T. Camesano)
 - a. The student had completed her defense and planned to upload her dissertation shortly for an August graduation.
 - b. The petition was approved

- 5. Voting item: Motion to broaden the grading system of graduate courses to include +/- grades (M. Demetriou).
 - a. There was clarification that undergrads would still be graded on the undergraduate grading scale even when taking graduate courses.
 - b. It was mentioned that there is a need more information on what students want.
 - c. There is also a need for a mechanism to communicate grading information to students. It was noted that BS/MS students are at particular risk of grading misunderstandings because they are familiar with the undergraduate grading system and may not realize that the graduate grading system is different.
 - d. There was a suggestion to make a table showing which rules apply to whom (for example, BS/MS students in their fourth year vs their fifth year).
 - e. There was a suggestion for a friendly amendment giving departments the option of choosing to use the new grading structure (+/- grades) or not. The registrar will determine if this is logistically possible.
 - f. There is a plan to seek endorsement from department heads, program coordinators, and the graduate student council.
 - g. The motion was approved with the friendly amendment if possible, and without the friendly amendment if it is not possible.

- 6. Voting item (Discussion/voting phase): Petition to update the ECE graduate catalog (A. Clark)
 - a. The motion proposed revised catalog language to clarify MS degree requirements.
 - b. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm.