

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #13 on 4/23/2020

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 13th meeting of AY '19/'20 on April 23, 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), A. Harnisch (Assistant VP Research), Melissa Terrio (Executive Director of Graduate Studies), Jeanine Dudle (CEE), Sarah Strauss (Global School)

Prof. Fischer called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

1. The minutes of Meeting #12 were reviewed and approved.
2. Consideration on whether WPI should develop policy/guidance on graduate admissions for students with P grades from other schools on their transcript in S'20. Dean Camesano requested input on whether WPI should consider developing policy/guidance on this issue. The committee felt specific guidance was not needed at this time and that individual graduate program committees would take this into consideration.
3. Motion 20-044 - Community Climate Adaptation MS Program. Professors Dudle and Strauss presented the proposal to develop the MS Program in Community Climate Adaptation. The committee discussed a number of issues related to the proposal, including rationale, curriculum structure, BS/MS option, double counting of credits, resource needs, timeline, how travel will be funded, and potential employers of graduates. The committee had a number of questions related to the cohort-based model, such as the justification for this structure, the amount of flexibility in taking courses, and the ability to transfer in credits from other programs or universities. The committee had concerns about 2000-level courses counting toward the MS degree and requested that instead graduate-level versions of these courses be made available. The committee also noted an issue with the credit distribution and that students would need to be full-time for every term during the academic year. The committee also discussed the impact of the current financial situation on the roll-out of this program. New or revised course proposals should also be included in the motion. The motion will be revised based on the committee discussion and considered for a vote at a future meeting.
4. Draft Guidelines to Create WPI Centers and Institutes. The draft guidelines document was presented by Vice Provost Vernescu and Assistant Vice Provost Harnisch for comment by the committee. The committee felt the document provides a good overview of creating, reviewing and sunseting of centers and institutes on campus. It was emphasized that this is a guidance document and that there may be exceptions in some cases (e.g., in some cases, it might be appropriate for only one school to be involved). The committee recommended providing more guidance on governing structures and considering a role for the WPI Research Development Council in reviewing applications for new centers.
5. Motion 20-046 - Business Analytics BS/MS. The committee approved the MS Business Analytics program at a previous meeting. This motion updates the program by adding the

BS/MS program. UG courses were not counted in MS program as originally approved. The motion was reviewed and approved.

6. Draft Graduate Learning Outcomes. It was agreed the committee should obtain more input on the outcomes from graduate programs. The committee will send the list of outcomes to Chairs for comment. It was agreed the committee may identify a list of outcomes that all programs can adopt and others that are optional.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Harold Walker
Secretary