

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #1 on 9/8/2022

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its first meeting of AY '22/'23 on September 8, 2022 (Thursday) via Zoom.

Present: D. Medich (PH, Chair), L. Fichera (RBE, Secretary), T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies), R. Neamtu (CS), Y. Telliel (HUA), Sarah Olson (Math), K. Mohammed (RBE, GS), B. Vernescu (Vice Provost for Research)

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

Prof. Medich called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

1. The minutes of meetings #12 and #13 (AY '21/'22) were reviewed and approved with minor corrections.
2. New CGSR members Professor Olsen, Professor Neamtu, and Graduate Student Representative Khizar Mohammed were welcomed.
3. The committee voted to elect Profs. Fichera and Telliel as secretaries for the AY '22/'23. Prof. Fichera will serve as secretary in the Fall semester, and Prof. Telliel will take on the role in the Spring semester.
4. Chair Medich provided a brief update on a recently approved motion to introduce +/- grades for graduate courses. The motion was approved by CGSR during meeting #12 of AY '21/'22, and it contains a provision that would give each individual department the option not to adopt the new +/- grades. S. Miles (Registrar) is investigating if this is logistically possible and will provide a report to the committee at a future meeting.
5. Voting Item: Motion to Change the Minimum Number of Credits for Graduate Certificates Awarded by the Business School
 - a. The committee discussed a motion proposed by Prof. Shah (Business School) to reduce the minimum number of credits required for Graduate Certificates awarded by the Business School from twelve (12) to nine (9).
 - b. The motion was received positively by the committee. Committee members observed that there appears to be a general trend toward shorter and less expensive degrees and micro-credentialing. It was observed that this model could potentially be applied to other certificate programs at WPI.
 - c. A committee member inquired about what protections are available to students who are taking a certificate but are not affiliated with a department. A subcommittee, composed of Profs. Medich, Telliel, Shah, and S. Miles, M. Terrio, and K. Mohammed will investigate this topic in detail.
 - d. The motion was approved
6. Voting item: Motion to change rules for using credits earned at other institutions towards degrees at WPI

- a. The committee discussed a motion proposed by a graduate student in the CEE Department. The motion seeks to change rules outlined in the graduate catalog to allow the use of credits earned – and used to satisfy degree requirements – at other institutions towards degrees at WPI.
- b. There was consensus in the committee that the motion fails to establish a sound rationale for the proposed change.
- c. One committee member observed that changes to the graduate catalog are the prerogative of the faculty, and that approving this motion would set a precedent, potentially opening up to further student motions in the future seeking to change rules for degree granting.
- d. The motion was denied.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Loris Fichera
CGSR Secretary (Fall 2022)