

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #7 on 11/23/2020

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 7th meeting of AY '20/'21 on November 23rd, 2020 (Monday) via Zoom.

Present: T. Camesano (Dean of Graduate Studies), M. Demetriou (AE), L. Fichera (RBE), K. Gandomi (RBE), S. Johnson (FBS), D. Korkin (CS), M. Rolle (BME, Chair), S. Shell (BBT)

Guests: K. McAdams (Director Academic Programs), Sarah Miles (Registrar), Craig Shue (CS), M. Terrio (Executive Director of Graduate Studies)

Prof. Rolle called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

1. The minutes of Meeting #6 were revised and approved.
2. A motion to move the September 1 graduation date to August 30 (S. Miles) was approved. The change in date allows students graduating in the summer in a 4-year graduation rate for IPEDs reporting purposes.
3. A motion to approve the course ID 511 – Research and Projects that Create Value was discussed. The definition and need for a designated value creation course was discussed, as well as the need for co-sponsorship by an academic department and full time faculty to ensure continuity of the course offering. M. Rolle will follow up with Value Creation Initiative faculty and the BME department re: academic department and faculty champions for VCI.
4. Two motions for graduate programs in CS were presented (C. Shue) and approved, as well as several related course motions.
 - a. Master of Science in Cyber Security program, and two new courses: CS 587 – Cybersecurity Capstone Experience and CS 5008 – Introduction to Systems and Network Programming.
 - b. Master of Computer Science program, and CS 588 – Computer Science Capstone experience.Both the MS in Cyber Security and the Master in Computer Science will serve as a terminal degree designed for students and working professionals with broader backgrounds, who are interested in pursuing a variety of careers related to computer science. New courses include a foundations course and capstone courses for each program, in alignment with program goals. The need for new resources, including faculty lines, were discussed. Academic Deans and Provost support the MS in Cyber Security and Master of Computer Science programs. Program marketing and applicant recruitment will be managed by KeyPath (OPM).
5. A special GSG meeting held on Monday, November 16 to discuss graduate student concerns re: COVID communications (K. Gandomi)
 - a. The committee thanked GSG for bringing these issues to CGSR's attention.
 - b. Main communication concerns from graduate students:
 1. Lack of time for planning during the break (travel, re-onboarding, lab access, etc). First communication was sent November 6, with a November 12 deadline to respond.
 2. Not clear who to go to with questions.

3. Lack of targeted messaging to graduate students who have unique concerns vs. general communications to all students.
- c. Accessibility of SDCC services for graduate students - SDCC has same day appointments, which may not work for graduate students working full-time re: planning ahead.

Dean T. Camesano will follow up with SDCC and CERT. She encouraged CSG to communicate concerns and questions to CGSR and directly to Rory Flinn. Feedback from GSG is welcome regarding how to most effectively disseminate information, and targeted messaging with information of concern to graduate students. Suggestions included sending information through Graduate Program Coordinators and advisors, in addition to communications from Graduate Studies, and holding town hall meetings for graduate students. M. Terrio noted that Student Success Managers are supporting new Master's students, who are fully remote and may not feel connected to campus, and they seem to be doing well under the circumstances.

The response from SDCC indicates that initial appointments are scheduled same day, so a grad student could plan to and expect to get in within the next 24 hours on weekdays. Follow up appointments can be scheduled ahead of time with the counselor they meet with.

6. The following committee appointments were made:
 - a. Workday Liaison Group - M. Rolle will serve
 - b. Selection Committee, Trustees' Award for Creative Scholarship - M. Demetriou will serve
7. Two motions from Robotics Engineering were discussed (L. Fichera).
 - a. Motion to clarify rules for waiving RBE 500 – Foundations of Robotic Engineering in the graduate catalog
 - b. Motion to add “WR 593 - Robot Futures: Design, Ethics, Communication” course to the “Engineering Context” category of the Robotics Engineering graduate program graduation requirements.

The motions were sent back to the RBE Graduate Studies committee for minor revision, and approved via evote.

8. A motion from the FBS to revise the MS in Management (MSMG) was discussed and approved via evote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Johnson
FBS
Secretary