

## Minutes of CGSR Meeting #8 on 1/23/2020

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of AY '19/'20 on January 23, 2020 (Thursday) in the Foisie Innovation Studio, Room 207 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1965 Conference Room).

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

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

---

Prof. Fischer called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

1. The committee agreed to move meeting time to 1:30-3:00 for the remainder of the academic year.
2. The minutes of Meeting #7 were reviewed and approved with minor edits.
3. Motion 20-014 - Motion to approve two new graduate courses: SD520 System Dynamics Modeling and Experimental Analysis I and SD540: System Dynamics Modeling and Experimental Analysis II. The committee reviewed additional information provided by the Department of Social Sciences and Policy submitted in response to questions raised at the last CGSR meeting. The committee still had questions about the proposal, such as how the new these new courses would fit into the curriculum, why the online version of the course cannot be offered on campus, and how undergraduates who take the undergraduate version of the course will be affected. The motion was tabled until additional information is provided in response to the committee's questions.
4. Motion 20-022 - Motion to increase the possible number of credits for the DS Graduate Qualifying Project from 3 to 6. The motion was reviewed and approved.
5. Motion 20-023 - Motion to add new NEU courses. All courses were reviewed and approved conditional on changing course numbers to be consistent with graduate courses across campus and generic courses in the Graduate Catalog. The specific courses conditionally approved include:
  - a. NEU 510 Neuroscience Seminar (0 credits; pass/fail grading)
  - b. NEU 590 Special Topics in Neuroscience (3 credits)
  - c. NEU 596 Independent Study in Neuroscience (3 credits)
  - d. NEU 597 Directed Research in Neuroscience (3 credits)
  - e. NEU 598 Graduate Internship in Neuroscience (3 credits)
  - f. NEU 599 M.S. Thesis Research in Neuroscience (3 credits).
6. Motion 20-024 - Motion to revise the Data Science certificate requirements to: (1) support thematic specializations in the plan of study, and (2) meet the demand of a broader spectrum of students and companies. The committee felt it important to be clear that the proposed thematic areas would not be reflected on a student's transcript. The transcript would only list a "Data Science Certificate." In reviewing the motion, the committee had concerns about the proposed variable number of credits (from 12 to 18) for completing the same certificate in different thematic areas. The committee also

requests that the implementation date be changed to AY 2020-2021 instead of fiscal year 2020.

7. Motion 20-025 - Motion to revise the CS programs BS/MS credit policy. The motion proposes that “in order to receive two graduate credits for a course, the student must earn a B course grade or higher.” And that “course instructors may waive the course grade requirement at their discretion.” The committee recommends that the B requirement be applicable to all graduate credit, not just cases in which students will receive two graduate credits. The committee also recommends they specify this policy applies to 4000-level courses. The committee also was not sure about why an instructor could waive the B requirement for graduate credit. The motion was tabled. After the conclusion of meeting #8, a revised proposal was submitted to the committee which eliminated the reference to “two” credits and added the specification of a 4000-level course. Also, CS explained the rationale for allowing instructors to approve graduate credit for grades less than a B was to eliminate pressure to inflate grades. The revised motion was approved by e-vote.
8. Motion 20-026 - Motion to revise the title and description for MA 503 & 504. The committee reviewed and approved this motion.
9. Motion 20-027 - Motion to revise the title and description for RBE/ME 521 - Advanced Robotics Parallel and Walking Mechanisms. The committee reviewed this motion and had concerns about the nature of the prerequisites. The committee felt description of prerequisites was more accurately “recommended background.” The committee requests the prerequisite statement be revised. The motion also needs a course description for the Graduate Catalog. The motion was tabled.
10. Draft Motion 20-028 – Motion to create an MS Degree and Program in Science and Engineering for Innovation in Global Development. This was not a formal motion to the committee yet, but request for preliminary feedback. Feedback and support from individual departments is also being solicited. The committee anticipates this to be the first of a number of proposals forthcoming from the Global School. The committee suggests Robert Krueger present the proposal (via Skype if needed) for initial feedback.
11. For Future Meetings,
  - a. The Provost will join us on March 5 to discuss online program management and graduate admissions streamlining.
  - b. Development of graduate outcomes. The Committee should take a look at some options provided by Reeta Rao. Establishing graduate outcomes is an important part of the accreditation report due in October. WPI should show we are making progress toward establishing a set of outcomes. The committee had a general discussion about the nature of graduate outcomes for different types of graduate programs (e.g., certificated, MS, PhD).
  - c. The CGSR will provide general updates at the March 19 Faculty Meeting.
  - d. committee discussed the need to facilitate graduate student quality of life and community building. The committee plans to review available data and invite the head of the graduate student government organization to a future meeting.
  - e. At the end of last term, the CGSR voted on non-degree limit of 6 credits but it is not in Graduate Catalog. The committee needs to follow up on the status of this change.
  - f. B. Vernescu updated the committee on the development of two new policies - (1) policy on what is a center, institute, etc. and (2) a policy on awards from foreign entities

- g. The committee recognized the need for publishing guidelines. The committee will invite Anna Gold from the library to summarize previous or current efforts to establish guidelines and the committee will provide feedback.
- h. The committee recognized the need to look into +/- grading for graduate courses.

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Harold Walker  
Secretary