

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #8 on 2/10/2022

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its eighth meeting of AY '21/'22 on February 10, 2022 (Thursday) via Zoom.

Present: D. Korkin (CS, Chair), S. Shell (BBT, Secretary), M. Demetriou (AE), L. Fichera (RBE), D. Medich (PH), Y. Telliel (HUA), J. Tourtellotte (BCB, GS), B. Vernescu (Vice Provost of Research).

Guests: S. Miles (Registrar), K. McAdams (Director of Academic Program Planning), M. Terrio (Executive Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions), R. Kruger (SSPS), S. Chiamonte (Associate Vice President, Graduate Studies).

Prof. Korkin called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

1. Voting item: two interdisciplinary PhD proposals. Committee comments on these proposals had previously been sent to the originator, Professor Kruger, who was invited to join the 2/10/22 meeting.
 - a. Professor Kruger joined the meeting at 3:10 pm to address questions about the two interdisciplinary PhD proposals.
 - b. The committee asked why these PhDs could not be offered by the Global School. Professor Kruger explained that the Global School does not yet have a PhD program, and that one of the students already has established advising and funding relationships with faculty in other departments.
 - c. Other questions regarding the titles, topics, and structure of the PhDs were addressed.
 - d. The committee recommended that all petitioners for interdisciplinary PhDs use the template motion on the CGSR website.
 - e. There was discussion about how to streamline review and approval of SSPS interdisciplinary PhD proposals; the committee suggested that SSPS consider developing a proposal for a standing PhD program.
 - f. Professor Kruger left the meeting at 3:37 pm.

2. Presentation and Discussion: Demand Driven Programs Committee.
 - a. Associate Vice President Chiamonte and Executive Director Terrio joined the meeting.
 - b. Associate Vice President Chiamonte is chairing the Demand Driven Programs Committee, which is one of the strategic initiatives run by the president's office. This committee looks at market demand for programs.
 - c. Associate Vice President Chiamonte outlined goals and objectives for developing and strengthening demand-driven graduate programs.
 - d. The Demand Driven Programs Committee was described as a short-term committee that will provide target analysis, competition assessment, and other services prior to programs bringing motions for new graduate programs to CGSR and the faculty. These services will help to ensure that resources are in place prior to launching programs as well as ensure the accuracy of expectations for enrollment in new programs to facilitate resource management.
 - e. There was discussion of the pitfalls associated with launching programs before the required resources and logistics are in place, as has happened recently at WPI.

- f. It was noted that these services were previously provided by someone else at WPI who has since left, and that many people were unaware of those services. The new committee hopes to partner with CGSR to ensure that departments and programs are aware of its services and able to utilize them.
 - g. CGSR members asked why “differential pricing” was listed among the objectives. Associate Vice President Chiaramonte explained that graduate tuition is currently linked to undergraduate tuition, and that in many disciplines this is not appropriate and graduate tuition should be reduced.
3. Voting item: A motion from Business School to add 4 courses to support an executive PhD program.
- a. The business school addressed questions and concerns previously raised by CGSR and submitted a revised motion.
 - b. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scarlet Shell, BBT, Secretary

With the assistance of Loris Fichera, RBE.