

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #9 on 2/4/2021

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 9th meeting of 2020-21 on February 4, 2021 (Monday) via Zoom.

Present: M. Demetriou (AE), L. Fichera (RBE), S. Johnson (FBS), D. Korkin (CS), M. Rolle (BME, Chair), B. Vernescu (Vice Provost Research)

Guests: K. McAdams (Director Academic Programs), S. Miles (Registrar), Carolina Ruiz (CS)

Prof. Rolle called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

1. The minutes of meeting #8 were revised and approved.
2. Announcements:
 - A graduate student representative to CGSR to replace Katie Gandomi has not yet been identified; M. Demetriou will reach out directly to an eligible student.
 - The next faculty meeting will be March 11 (February meeting was cancelled).
 - M. Rolle will review CGSR notes to ensure any conditionally approved / unresolved motions from D term 2020 / A term 2020 are identified and finalized.
 - Although the next CGSR meeting is scheduled for February 18 during the Board of Trustees meeting, a quorum of members is still available to meet so the meeting will proceed as planned.
3. A motion for a BS/MS in Neuroscience was presented by C. Ruiz and approved pending several minor revisions and clarification. Revisions were received on 2/4/2021.
4. CGSR reviewed Fall 2020 petitions to appeal academic dismissal (S. Miles)
 - A CGSR subcommittee (Miles, Camesano, Demetriou, Rolle) met in January to review, discuss, and make decisions on student appeals.
 - Seven (7) petitions were reviewed. Two (2) were approved, four (4) were conditionally approved (follow up is still pending), and one (1) was denied.
5. The "UP" grade option was discussed (S. Miles)
 - The "UP" grade indicates unsatisfactory progress (~ "SP" = satisfactory progress), which is used infrequently (130 times since 1989, with 115 of 130 UP grades assigned by a single department, and usually for course grades v. thesis/dissertation).
 - Discussion focused on implications of the UP grade on student grade assignment and GPA compared to "I", "W" or "NC" grades, appropriateness of each grade type for courses v. thesis or dissertation, and implications for students.
 - Reviewing grade types and policies is an opportunity to draw faculty attention to graduate grade options and how they are applied; and to revise the grading options to better align with the intended application and coding in Workday. A motion will be drafted for consideration.

6. Motions for several course changes in Robotics Engineering were considered.
 - Motions to revise RBE 501 and RBE 502, to provide greater focus and remove overlap with RBE 500, were approved.
 - A motion for new courses in Space Robotics was not approved due to concerns about the lack of listed recommended background courses and whether the depth of the content is appropriate for a graduate-level course. The RBE Graduate Committee was invited to revise and invited to an upcoming meeting.
7. Motions for several course changes in Mechanical Engineering were considered. Motions for courses in Metal Additive Manufacturing and Solar Cells appear novel, and the rationale for adding the courses is clear. There were questions about the other motions with respect to duplication with other courses (e.g., Surface Metrology, Biomaterials). The ME Graduate Program Coordinator will be invited to a future meeting to discuss Graduate Course revisions.
8. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm, following a short discussion of upcoming business and a note to communicate to WPI faculty when C-term meetings are scheduled, and to email CGSR about motions in preparation so that we may plan our upcoming agendas.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Johnson
FBS
Secretary