

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #9 on 2/6/2020

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 9th meeting of AY '19/'20 on February 6, 2020 (Thursday) in the Foisie Innovation Studio, Room 207 (2nd Floor, 1965 Conference Room). Due to weather, some members participated via Zoom.

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

Guests: K. McAdams (Director of Academic Program Planning), Sarah Miles (Registrar), Reeta Rao, A. Harnisch (Assistant VP Research)

Prof. Fischer called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

1. The minutes of Meeting #8 were reviewed and approved with minor edits.
2. Discussion on Graduate Learning Outcomes. H. Walker and R. Rao presented examples of graduate learning outcomes at other universities as well a draft of learning outcomes for graduate programs at WPI. A number of suggestions were made by the committee to make the outcomes more general so that they can be adopted by all programs. G. Fischer, T. Camesano, and R. Rao suggested changes to better address project or capstone work by non-thesis Masters students. S. Johnson recommended the outcomes include developing greater breadth in a discipline as well as depth. As next steps, H. Walker and R. Rao will revise the draft learning outcomes as well review any existing outcomes in the existing MBA program and recently approved MFA program.
3. Research Update (B. Vernescu, Vice Provost Research; A. Harnisch, Assistant VP Research)
 1. B Vernescu and A. Harnisch discussed the development of "Guidelines to Create WPI Centers and Institutes." It was emphasized that these are meant to be guidelines to accommodate different structures, and not strict rules. The guidelines address the definition of centers and institutes, laboratories; reporting; proposing new centers; review of existing centers; and termination of centers. The committee will review guidelines and vote on them at a future meeting.
 2. B. Vernescu updated the committee on the development of a policy on accepting grants from foreign entities. The policy would require some type of screening before final acceptance of grants from foreign entities. WPI currently has a policy on accepting gifts, but not for research grants.
 3. B. Vernescu informed the committee that research awards are up significantly compared to the same time last year.

4. Motion 20-014 – Two new courses System Dynamics. The committee is waiting for responses to our previous questions.
5. Motion 20-025 - Revised Data Science Certificate. The committee waiting for responses to our previous questions.
6. Motion 20-027 - RBE/ME 521 Catalog Title & Description Update. The motion was approved pending minor changes.
7. Motion 20-029- ECE 538 Wireless Network Title and Description Update. The motion was reviewed and approved pending minor changes.
8. Motion 20-030. New Course, CH542 Drugs in the Brain. The committee reviewed the motion but deferred voting until additional information is provided.
9. Commencement Participation Policy (S. Miles). S. Miles updated the committee on the revision of the Commencement Participation Policy. The revised policy would allow Masters students to participate in the Commencement in May if they are on track to complete all course requirements by the end of the summer term. Currently, Masters students who complete requirements over summer must wait until the following May to participate in Commencement. PhD students would still be required to complete all requirement before participating commencement. The committee suggested adding a credit limit (e.g., 3 or 6 credits remaining).
10. Petition 20-002. Petition to waive credit requirement for Graduate Internship. The committee reviewed and approved the petition considering the student is an existing BS/MS student. The current policy for new students is still in force.
11. Motion 20-032. Two new chemistry courses; CH 545 and CH 546
 1. New course CH546 Natural Product Isolation and Analysis. The committee reviewed the motion but deferred voting until additional information is provided
 2. New Course CH 545 Plant Natural Products. The committee reviewed the motion but deferred voting until additional information is provided.
12. +/- Grading of Graduate Courses (S. Miles). S. Miles presented data benchmarking the use of +/- grading in graduate courses at other universities. T. Camesano noted a previous survey did not provide strong motivation to change the existing policy. There does not seem to be a strong preference amongst graduate students to have +/- grading. The committee decided to table this discussion until additional information in support of +/- grading is brought to the committee.
13. OSCAR Report (S. Johnson) – S. Johnson updated the committee on the Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the progress of the Pilot online Student Course Reporting System.

S. Johnson noted that participation and percentage of students responding has gone down since going to the online system.

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Harold Walker
Secretary