

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #2 on 9/28/2021

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its second meeting of AY '21/'22 on September 28th, 2021 (Tuesday) via Zoom.

Present: D. Korkin (CS, Chair), S. Shell (BBT, Secretary), T. Camesano (Dean of graduate studies), M. Demetriou (AE), L. Fichera (RBE), D. Medich (PH), J. Petitto (BCB, GS), Y. Telliel (HUA), 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), K. Oates (BBT), S. Johnson (FBS)

Prof. Korkin called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

1. The minutes of meeting #1 were reviewed and approved with a spelling correction.
2. Discussion item: Interdisciplinary PhD Application (Attendees: Karen Oates and Sharon Johnson). The committee reviewed and discussed additional information supplied by Prof. Oates regarding an application for an Interdisciplinary PhD in Global Health. The committee requested that the additional information be incorporated into the original motion such that we can vote on the motion at the next meeting.
3. Motion item: Introduction of +/- grading for graduate courses (Michael Demetriou). Prof. Demetriou introduced a motion to change graduate course grade options from A/B/C/D/F to A/A-/B+/B/B-/C+/C/D/F.
 - a. The rationale was that a grading system that includes +/- would allow faculty to give grades that they feel better reflect students' performance, and that students may benefit because such a system may make it easier for them to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above and avoid academic probation.
 - b. S. Miles confirmed that such a change would only affect graduate students, and that undergraduates taking graduate courses would still be graded on the A/B/C/NR undergraduate grading scheme.
 - c. It was noted that the proposed change would only help students improve their GPAs if it caused faculty to change their grading cutoffs.
 - d. There seemed to be general support on the committee for the more nuanced grading system being proposed.
 - e. There was a suggestion to gather input from more faculty to gauge the general level of support for the proposal before advancing it. CGSR will reach out to department heads and ask them to gather feedback from their faculty.
4. The committee briefly discussed proposed B term schedule options. Further discussion by email was planned, but a schedule was finalized shortly thereafter, obviating the need for discussion or CGSR input.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scarlet Shell
BBT
Secretary