

Minutes of CGSR Meeting #3-9/16/2015

The Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) held its 3rd meeting of the 2015-16 academic year on September 16, 2015 in Higgins Labs, room 102.

Present: M. Demetriou (Chair), J. Argüello (A-term secretary), A. Zeng, S. Hudson (GS), C. Larsen.

Absent: A. Rangwala, D. R. Brown. B. Vernescu (Vice Provost for Research), S. Flavin (Ex-Officio).

Guests: M. McGrade (Dir. Grad. Admissions), T. Camesano (Dean of Grad. Studies).

1. Professor Demetriou called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM
2. Minutes from CGSR Meeting#2-9/9/2015 were discussed and approved.
3. The MFE/MTE/ME 5420 course addition was discussed as issues with wording in the request were brought up by the Chair. It was decided to return the request to Prof. Brown for revision.
4. The development of Guiding Principles for PhD Programs was discussed. Prof. Camesano presented recent and historical results of graduate student's surveys. This appears to reinforce previous observations from the CGSR survey regarding positive and negative views from Grad. Students.

The relation between limited infrastructure, number of faculties and the number of students in the various programs (lack of critical mass) was discussed.

There was consensus that the CGSR wants to produce a document to be submitted to the faculty for endorsement and subsequently to the WPI administration.

There was consensus that a draft document with basic ideas and structure should be produced to guide the discussion in upcoming meetings.

Professor Argüello agreed to provide a starting draft to be circulated electronically addressing four basic points; the general definition of a PhD programs, the PhD programs from the point of view of the university (responsibilities and benefits), the Faculty (responsibilities and benefits) and the students (responsibilities and benefits).

6. McGrade and Camesano presented current issues with Federal regulations that impose limits on on-line course registration for international students. It was proposed to invite Mr. Tom Thomsen, Director of the Office of international Students and Scholars to the next CGSR meeting to provide further information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

José Argüello, CGSR Secretary