

Special Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 07, 2021, Noon to 1:00 PM

Zoom

Meeting called to order at 12:04 pm by D. Oerther (presiding for M. Insall who joined late for a portion)

1. Roll Call (Completed via Zoom Chat and Zoom Participant features)

- Present: M. Insall; D. Oerther; V.P. Reddy, C. Dagli; C. Chua; C. Kueny; D. Fischer; G. Markowsky; L. Alagha; L. Gertsch; M. Moats; C-S. Kim; A. Ichim; E. Malone; F. Liou; C. Mendoza; X. Liang; S. SedighSarvestani
- Invited Guests: C. Tsatsoulis; S. Fayek; J. Hofer; S. Potrafka; D. Jackson; K. Giacomelli-Feys; W. Zwikelmaier
- Other Guests: K. Wagner; S. Matson; H. Pham; S. Fogg; M. Mormile

2. Clarification on Requirements for International Graduate Students Regarding CPT and OPT (Discussion with Dr. Jeanie Hofer and Susan Potrafka from the Office of International Affairs)

- Transition to Susan Potrafka in new role as Primary Designated School Official (PDSO); reviewing ongoing process
- Federal government indicated that there were some problems at universities across the nation, and individuals at each campus may be held personally accountable for problems at their institution
- Powerpoint by Susan Potrafka
- Since spring 2016, S&T has authorized CPT nearly 300 times (mostly MS degree candidates); more than 100 times in electrical engineering
- CPT is for BEFORE completing a degree
- One year of CPT eliminates option to complete subsequent OPT
- Many, many resources for information and guidance
- COER will vet employers to ensure they are legitimate offers from legitimate employers
- Step-by-step process has been outlined by International Affairs and includes a form that includes input from COER as well as faculty advisor for the internship course
- CLARIFICATION: Previously there was a zero academic credit co-op course that students enrolled during CPT (via COER), BUT NOW this option has been changed, and students MUST earn academic credit. This is the reason for an increase in the number of requests from students for academic credit.
- A major discussion/concern expressed during the discussion is the term, “integral part of an established curriculum”
- The point was raised that students may want to pursue CPT, and if the university does not allow this pursuit, it may result in a negative impact on recruiting students
- OPT is an entirely different issue, and is something that is considered after defending a thesis/dissertation
- D. Oerther summarized with the following:
 - o Action for SS21: A student who wishes to pursue CPT will be required to register for academic credit with a faculty member. Programs individually are welcome to use their existing courses/procedures to continue with processing CPT as per normal process.
 - o For programs having some discomfort with the process, faculty members/programs have the right to say no. There will also be efforts made to help faculty in those programs to look for ways to become comfortable with best practice, etc. resources to make it work for SS21
 - o Program faculty will need to consider, in the future, efforts to create guidance/rules related to including CPT (and an appropriate academic course) in curricula

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm