

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

140 Toomey Hall

12:00pm Wednesday, October 02, 2024

Present: Serhat Hosder, Melanie Mormile, Gayla Olbricht, Irina Ivliyeva, Sarah Stanley, Haiming Wen, Jee-Ching Wang, Manashi Nath, Magdy Abdelrahman, Sahra Sedighsarvestani, Chang-Soo Kim, Steven Corns, Magdy Abdelrahman, Kyle Perry, Weibing Gong, Wan Yang, Vahe Permzadian, Cecil Chua, Frank Liou, Haiming Wen, Xiaodong Yang, Haiming Wen, Lana Alagha, Hyunsoo Kim, Cihan Dagli, Edward Malone, Steven Corns, Jeffery Winiarz, Sarah Stanley, Garry Grubbs, Manoj Twarakavi, David Borrok, Robin Gore, Susan Murray, David Spivey, Petra Dewitt, Manoj Twarakavi, Susan Murray, Stephen Raper, Deanne Jackson

Chair S. Corns called the meeting to order, 12:00 pm

1. Roll call
2. Approval of minutes from September 04, 2024 meeting. Motion to approve as written: second: approved
3. President's report
 - a. The issue with PowerBI, where members/associate members are being dropped when shifting positions, was raised, and after some discussion, a motion for a grace period for Membership/Associate membership was put forth as follows.
 - i. Rules and regulations III.E.2 - Any member of the Graduate Faculty, including Associate Members, who terminates employment with the University shall retain Associate Membership status for two (2) years after their departure from the University. Should they wish to extend this appointment further, they will need to apply for Associate Membership as outlined in Article III.D.
 - ii. Motion to approve as written: Second: Motion passes by vote.
 - b. End of year Awards Committee
 - i. Must be associated with graduate efforts on campus.
 - ii. Would prefer to have at least one staff member involved.
 - iii. Need at least three members.
 - iv. Volunteers should reach out to the Presidents email account.
4. GTP discussion
 - a. Extend start time for MS to 1 year after BS graduation.
 - i. Motivated by getting more of our students to get master's degrees.
 - ii. Allows for a delay in start date without additional administrative overhead.
 - iii. Raises issues of equity for grad students that did not get BS at S&T and potential negative impact on university reputation.
 - iv. Would be very helpful for international students.
 - v. Motion to table: Second: Tabled by vote.
 - b. Certificate details (how many credits)?
 - i. Two ideas
 - Allow 6 credits at UG and Grad level.
 - Allow 9 credits at UG and Grad level.
 - ii. Discussion about issues with students having to substitute courses if they are not allowed to apply to both grad and UG.
 - iii. Discussion about courses being able to apply to UG and masters, but not UG and certificate and whether this is fair.

5. Graduate Faculty Reappointment Review Update for FS23
 - a. Need to establish a membership committee.
 - i. Volunteers solicited.
 - b. Need to establish research committee.
6. Stipend X
 - a. Motion for recommendation of 4%: Second: Motion passes by vote.
7. 7. Graduate Student Bill of Rights (and responsibilities)
 - a. Comments will be distributed.
 - b. Please meet with your faculty to discuss and get feedback.
 - c. Questions raised concerning a previous approval/endorsement of the current tentative version of the GSBOR by the Grad Fac Council, but not the Grad Fac.
 - i. Motion as follows.
 - Whereas there is significant ongoing discussion about the current draft of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights.
 - Whereas the Graduate Council has a duty to of care to both Graduate Students and the departments and faculty we represent.
 - The Graduate Council will revisit the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and vote on a potentially revised version.
 - Second: Motion passes by vote.
 - Any future correspondence concerning the Graduate Student Bill of Rights will include this resolution.
8. New business
 - a. President Steve Corns has announced he will be stepping down from this position.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Corns, 1:17 pm.