

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

140 Toomey Hall

12:00pm Wednesday, November 06, 2024

Present: Serhat Hosder, Melanie Mormile, Irina Ivliyeva , Sarah Stanley, Haiming Wen, Jee-Ching Wang, Manashi Nath, Magdy Abdelrahman, Sahra Sedighsarvestani, Chang-Soo Kim, Magdy Abdelrahman, Kyle Perry, Weibing Gong, Wan Yang, Katherine Grote, Vahe Permzadian, Frank Liou, Haiming Wen, Akim Adekpedjou, Xiaodong Yang, Hyunsoo Kim, Cihan Dagli, Edward Malone, Lijun Jiang, Jeffery Winiarz, Colin Potts, Garry Grubbs, Manoj Twarakavi, Susan Murray, Stephen Raper, Petra Dewitt, Deanne Jackson

President L. Jiang called the meeting to order, 12:00 pm

1. Roll call
2. Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2024 meeting. Motion to approve as written: second: approved.
3. President's report
4. Grad Track Pathway
 - a. President Jiang reiterated the benefits and risks associated with the extended start time for MS to 1 year after BS graduation, specifically;
 - i. Benefits:
 - Getting more of our students to get master's degrees.
 - Allows for a delay in start date without additional administrative overhead.
 - Might be very helpful for international students.
 - ii. Risks:
 - Hard to track over 200 students in GTP.
 - The program might be abused as a backup option.
 - A discontinued study agenda might cause trouble to students when they are back to campus.
 - A potential break of the research continuity.
 - Raises issues of equity for grad students that did not get BS at S&T and potential negative impact on university reputation.
 - iii. There was additional discussion raising some other points including;
 - May help facilitate students taking part-time Master's program online while also employed.
 - May go against the original spirit of the GTP, which was to keep students here continuously from UG to grad studies.
 - May contribute to the NorthStar goal of increasing online graduate enrollment.
 - Many students would like to get a job first which pay may pay in part or wholly for their graduate degree.
 - Provost Potts suggested we should not focus on procedural details, but rather make the process as easy as possible.
 - iv. Recommendation:
 - Allow all bachelor's students to take 6-9 credits as UG which they can then apply towards the masters' program.
 - a. Must be at least 5000 level (academic advisors must be aware of this).
 - b. May need departmental approval.

- Make it a case-by-case program that requires special approval, student's guarantee, or some constraints (if any ?), etc. If there are many applicants, we establish it into a regular option.
 - Finally decided that the discussion will be summarized and formulated into a motion for the next meeting ensuring to distinguish between thesis and non-thesis programs.
- b. Certificate track (see attached document) - Recommend the council to vote on the decision since it was discussed in the last meeting.
 - i. Tabled due to time limitations.
 - c. Limiting credit hours for GTP/dual enrollment.
 - i. Tabled due to time limitations.
5. Graduate Faculty Reappointment Review Update for FS24
- a. Membership Committee Renew
 - i. Existing members of the Membership committee will continue to serve.
 - b. Research Policy Committee Renew
 - i. It was listed as a special committee back to 2020.
 - ii. There is no active focus by the committee right now.
 - iii. Recommendation was made to not renew the committee.
 - c. End of the year Awards Committee
 - i. Needs at least three members.
 - ii. Must be associate with graduate efforts on campus.
 - iii. Prefer to have at least one staff member involved.
 - iv. Volunteer solicitation.

6. There was no new business.

Meeting adjourned by President Jiang, 1:00 pm.