

Georgia Institute of Technology
Graduate Curriculum Committee
Minutes
September 5, 2013

Present: Flowers (ARCH), Pikowsky (REG), Neitzel (ME), Storici (BIOL), Dickson (CHEM), Ferri (ECE), Singhal (MGT), Sharp (Grad Studies), Ashuri (BC), Boldyreva (CoC), Kvam (ISyE), Macrakis (HTS), Sluss (CoB), Cozzens (Provost's Office)

Visitors: Laros (REG), Merkousko (REG), White (CoC), Isbell (CoC)

Note: All action items in these minutes require approval by the Academic Senate. In some instances, items may require further approval by the Board of Regents or the University System of Georgia. If the Regents' approval is required, the change is not official until notification is received from the Board to that effect. Academic units should take no action on these items until USG and/or BOR approval is secured. In addition, units should take no action on any of the items below until these minutes have been approved by the Academic Senate or the Executive Board.

Administrative Items

1. A motion was made to elect Jeff Jagoda as Chair. The motion was seconded and approved. (Dr. Jagoda was not present at the meeting, but had indicated a willingness to serve in some capacity if needed).
2. A motion was made to elect Benjamin Flowers as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and approved.
3. It was noted that these roles operate more as co-chairs than anything else, which seems to serve the Committee well.
4. Reta Pikowsky will continue to serve as Secretary.
5. The meeting time of 3:00 PM on Thursday, with the dates as indicated on the draft schedule, were approved.
6. Drs. Christine Ries and Victor Breedveld were nominated to serve on the petitions subcommittee. Upon confirmation that they are willing to fill this role, the subcommittee will begin reviewing petitions.
7. It was noted that there may be a need this year to form some special subcommittees to explore some current and emerging issues. This will be further discussed with specific input from Vice Provost Cozzens.
8. The student representative will be contacted as soon as we know for sure who will fill this role.

Academic Matters

1. A motion was made to approve a request from the College of Business for a new course. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Course – Approved

MGT 6663: Technology Strategy

3-0-3

Note: This course was previously tabled until a decision was made about whether MGT 3663 should be listed as equivalent. MGT has verified that the equivalency should not be on the course.

2. Senior Associate Dean, Charles Isbell, and Assistant Dean David White, College of Computing, attended the meeting to update the Committee on implementation of the online MS in Computer Science. Topics that were discussed included course content, proctors (with some follow-up information needed from Dr. Baker), the conditions of admission, GRE waiver, how the interactions with students will occur, the roles of the Udacity “course assistants”, the UG teaching assistants that are used for CS 1371 as a model for how the TAs for this program might be deployed and vetted, who owns the courses (the task force assigned to look at this larger question has determined that GT owns the IP and the courses – the Committee would like an update if this changes), royalties and who gets them, teaching credit (every time the course is run, credit for creating the course, when it is taught – load would be given), and the national conversation about the value of teaching these classes and the dollar amount that seems to make sense to most.

Follow-up items: 1) David White will return at the Oct. meeting for an operational update; 2) Charles Isbell will attend the first meeting in the spring for an academic update on how the courses have been developed and what he has learned as an instructor; 3) update from Nelson Baker on how the proctors will be selected and operate; and 4) an update from the task force on who owns the IP and course and related issues.

3. A recent request from the Board of Regents for us to confirm the accuracy of and respond to concerns about degree production over the past three years in all current programs was discussed. It was noted that the list was not complete and is being reviewed by the registrar’s office to ensure that all degrees are accounted for and corrected on the list.

The BOR has highlighted the programs considered “unproductive” based on average graduates per year over the last three years (3 for doctoral programs, 5 for masters programs). The report states that 28% of all graduate degrees appear to be producing low numbers of graduates.

There are two areas of concern. One area of concern is the list of “undesigned” MS degrees that make it appear that too many of our graduate degrees are unproductive. The “undesigned” degrees at the graduate level function a bit differently than those at the undergraduate level. For example, some programs offer a BS and a PhD, but no MS. The “undesigned” MS has been used as a “fall-back” option if a student decides to not complete the PhD, but has completed a sufficient amount of work to earn the MS degree.

The Committee generally agreed that there are enough issues to ponder that they need more time to think about this before being able to formulate a course of action, if any.

The other area of concern is the group of programs that are not part of the “undesigned” group that are producing low numbers of graduates. Dr. Cozzens is in discussion with those units to understand and articulate the purpose that those programs serve. There are areas of significant research, for example, where some of these low degree producing programs may also be very relevant to research that is taking place. This, too, is not as clear on the surface as it would seem.

Committee members did express concern that even the appearance of inefficiency is not a good thing and that it is important to either address the areas of concerns or make clear statements about why those areas are important in other ways, such as research.

In the final analysis, the Committee feels that it will need to discuss the report in more detail, which it plans to do at the meeting next week. After all the relevant issues have been identified and Dr. Cozzens has reported back on her conversations, a narrative will be prepared with possible action items to be sent back to the Board of Regents.

Adjourned,

Reta Pikowsky
Registrar