Graduate Program Committee Meeting, 09 April 2021, 10:00-11:00am

In Attendance: Mohamed, Paulo, Raj, Ankur, Eyhab, Wes, Athirai, Juhua, Wei,

Updates and news:

1- Approve minutes of last meeting: March 5, 2021

- tabled to May 2021

2- Updates on new student applications

- PhD was the first priority, then Thesis/Capstone? reviews, then MSCSS reviews
- Now that we are in April we will start focusing on MSCSS applications for Fall

3- Update on PhD student support [Wes, Eyhab, Ankur and Mohamed]

- An email was sent to faculty to fill out an online application for funding

4- Online MSCSS degree and certificates in the future.[Mohamed]

- Microsoft employees are interested in an online PhD with full support from MS
- The size of online courses needs to be addressed with regard to workload
- Any students with Engineering backgrounds can be TA eligible

5- NSF proposals to support our PhD program/students Update [Wes/Eyhab?]

6- Data Science Certificate Update [Juhua]

- website is updated
- Please help us to spread the word online
- Microsoft is on the Advisory Board and is very intersted in our certs and PhD option
- Tuition assistance is available for degree programs only
- Could we consider adding GRE waiver policy for PhD and MSCSS

Discussions:

7- adding a track for elective courses that do not fall under any track for PhD

- Student must take a minimum of 20 credits in electives. 15 credits need to be from three MS tracks. Some good courses are not in a track. Creating a challenge for PhD students to complete the required 20 credits efficiently

- Is there a possible "track" to create for PhD electives that could capture some of these courses?
- One example is the VR course 578, not in a track
- Other ways to do elective substitutions?
- Ankur is working on it

8- PhD handbook

- Wes will work on a PhD handbook with Curtis, or an online versio
- Should bea resource to figure out electives, tests, dissertation, funding

9- Course planning for next year

- How best to schedule CORE courses in Autumn/Winter?
- Possible to do one giant online section every quarter for CORE courses
- One 543 online offered in Autumn, one 558 online offered in Winter
- Also have an in person CORE offered the following quarter for students who missed, or failed

10- 700/702 registration before proposal acceptance

- Now students wait for a code to register until after acceptance
- This sometimes creates anxiety and students register for a "holding place" course
- F1 students, and veterans, worry about not being at 10 credits
- Spring term see "Musical Chairs" with enrollment and creates issues with schedule
- Could we also improve the process of reviewing the proposals-- treat 700 and 702 differently during the review process

11- Graduate committee meetings in Spring

- May 07