

Graduate Program Committee Meeting, 07 May 2021, 10:00-11:00am

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

1- Approve minutes of last meeting: March 5, 2021 and Apr 9, 2021 *March 05: Motion by Wei, 2nd by Juhua. Approved no objections *April 09: Motion by Eyhab, 2nd by Ankur. Approved no objections

2- Updates on new student applications [Curtis]

- PhD has 23 apps submitted, we denied 01 so far, and have 04 paid deposits
- Microsoft may have PhD students join us in 2021-22 (Ankur)
- MSCSS has 228 apps submitted, we denied 63 so far, and have 42 paid deposits
- GC-SDE has 06 apps submitted for Fall. There is an info session today.

3- NSF proposals to support our PhD program/students Update [[Wes/Eyhab?](#)]

- No response to an email from April 09 seeking out PIs
- Diversity Grant being submitted right now

4- Data Science Certificate Update [Juhua]

- no registrations yet
- could faculty/staff share on their social networks?
- Connect the denied MSCSS students to Data Science Certificate

5- adding a track for elective courses that do not fall under any track for PhD [Ankur]

- 1 idea-- amend the framework to allow PhD students to take any 20-credits of electives, irrespective of tracks
- 2 idea-- create a new catch-all (general) track that will include all electives that are not part of any existing track
- 2-- we might be able to rename one existing track as the "General" track based on low enrollment, or, rotate the general track
- 3 idea-- Take an orphan elective that doesn't fall into any existing track, the student can propose to include that orphaned elective into an existing track.
- 20 credits of 500-level TCSS Elective Courses from at least 3 different tracks/concentrations (GIS, Cybersecurity, Cyber-Physical, Distributed Systems, Data Science, Bioinformatics)
- Raj suggests removing the "Concentration tracks" and create three lists for PhD students (A, B, C). Students would need one course from each list.

6- PhD handbook [Wes]

- Martine shared a version
- Wes plans to take the proposal language and add to the MSCSS handbook and convert to a Graduate Handbook

7- Course planning for next year [Donald]

- Looking at DL courses, how many is too many

8- GRE waivers for industry experienced applicants and for pandemic related excuses

- Is GRE necessary for PhD?
- We don't review any right now if GRE missing
- Can we do case-by-case basis, do we need a policy?
- Does GRE show anything about research potential?

9- Graduate committee meeting on Curriculum day

Next Meeting: May 21st