CSS Grad Committee Meeting – March 7, 2025

Virtually via Zoom

3pm – 4pm PST

Minutes authored by Donald Chinn

<u>**Attendance**</u>

Voting Faculty (14): Wei Cai, Martine De Cock , Wei Cheng , Zhi-Qi Cheng, Wes Lloyd, Paulo Barreto, Mohamed Ali, Juhua Hu, Ka Yee Yeung, Donald Chinn, Damiano Torre, Eyhab Al-Masri, Dongfang Zhao

Non-Voting Faculty and Staff (2): Rachel Crook, Raj Katti , Aubree Steffens, Victoria Olive, Kira King

<u>**Items**</u>

1. **Review minutes from 2.7.2025:** 🗎[CSS Grad Committee Meeting – February 7.docx](#)
   - **Moved: Paulo Barretto / Seconded: Juhua Hu**
   - **Eligible to vote: 13**
   - **In favor: 13 / Against: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Absent for vote: 0**

2. **Update: Top Scholar Funding - App Review, Apr 15th deadline for initial offer letters. By May 1st, unallocated funds are returned unless arrangements are made w/ the Grad School**

   If the top 3 students do not accept, then we can go further down the list. After May 1, unallocated funds go back to the Graduate School unless there is another arrangement.

   The funding will likely go to Ph.D. students since funding of top scholar is tied to GTA funding. Funding is for one year. There was a discussion for what happens for funding for the student in the 2nd year, 3rd, year, etc.

3. **Update: 2024-25 CSS Faculty Search Update - Juhua**

   An update was given in the CSS program meeting earlier in the day.

4. **Update: MS in AI Foundations and Applications (MS AIFA) - Juhua**

   Still finalizing the PNOI.

5. **5 year review for GC-SDE (Wes)**

   Work has started to prepare for the review for the program. One task is to get feedback from alumni of the program. A report is due in mid-April.

6. **Announce: SET Research Showcase: Mar 14 (abstracts), Apr 28 (posters), May 9 @2 - 5:30p (event) - Ka Yee**

7. **Update: MSCSS Application Review – Rachel**

   Numbers:
   MSCSS: 44 admitted, 26 denied, 58 in review, 12 submitted (missing materials)
   GC-SDE: 8 applicants so far, which is actually good compared to last year, 8 admitted, 0 denied, 0 in review.
   Ph.D.: 1 admitted, 13 denied, 1 in review, 5 Top Scholar prospects.

   Top scholar. 5 Ph.D. students were nominated, and 1 MSCSS student was nominated, but that student has not yet applied. What does the VCAA look for to approve? The student should be qualified, and the letter should specify what funding is being offered. There is a concern for how many years a student is funded (see above discussion).

8. **Update: MSCSS Capstone/Thesis Proposals Due - March 14 @ 11:59pm**

   Easy Chair has been set up for reviews of proposals. Suggestion: make the deadline 11:59pm anywhere on earth (AoE).

9. **Update: GTAs Winter & Spring - Wei Cheng**

   There was a meeting of GTAs a week ago. Applications for GTAs in Spring is today. Tom, Wei Cheng, and Wes will make a decision on who is accepted.

10. **PhD student Meeting - moved to Friday afternoon April 11**

    The plan is to have a Ph.D. student meeting in Spring. The plan is to have presentations and panels of interest to Ph.D. students. Please volunteer if available.

11. **Update: PhD CSS program applications for Fall 2025**

    See above update (application review).

12. **AY 2025-26 Course Schedule - Saturday Course Timings (?)**

    Chris Marriott is seeking advice for how to schedule Saturday classes. There was a discussion about the issues about this. On the one hand, we tend to have two blocks of time on Saturday (morning, afternoon). On the other hand, there are variations that make it difficult to make the Saturday times consistent (for example, different credits for courses, whether the course is offered hybrid). For AY 2025-26 scheduling, the decision was to adopt AY 2024-25 Saturday course timings and review as needed.

13. **TCSS 600/700/702/800 Grading Standards: (UW Grading Policy)**

    The recommendation in the past is to use an N grade for the 700/702/800 for multi-quarter project/thesis/Ph.D. However, there is no policy. The general agreement now is that 700/800

is CR/NC, 600/702 is graded (numerical), and we use N (not X) for multi-quarter classes/projects, but we will use CR for 800 students. Also, we need to make sure what the system does and what we intend actually coincide.

Next CSS Grad meeting: Friday, April 4, 2025