

CSS Graduate Committee Minutes – March 6, 2026

MDS 312/Zoom

Date: March 6, 2026

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

Location: MDS 312 & Zoom

Minutes Prepared By: Xutong Liu, Ankur Teredesai

Attendance

Voting Faculty: Paulo Barreto, Ka Yee Yeung, Martine De Cock, Mohamed Ali, Ankur Teredesai, Donald Chinn, Wes Lloyd, Chris Marriott, Eyhab Al-Masri, Xutong Liu, Damiano Torre, Juhua Hu, Wei Cai, Zhi-Qi Cheng, Wei Cheng, Dongfang Zhao, Ling-Hong Hung

Non-Voting Faculty and Staff: Rachel Crook, Anisha Joshi, Aubree Steffens

Absent: Raj Katti, Kira King

Items

1. Vote to approve minutes from 2.6.2026 (author Rachel Crook)

Moved: A.Teredesai

Seconded: X.Liu

11 in favor, 0 against, 6 abstain

Rachel noted that the list of absent members would be added to the February 6 minutes.

2. Rachel/Anisha: MSCSS AY2026-27 Application Reviews and Recruitment Updates

Rachel reported that 21 students had been admitted and 7 denied, with 44 applications currently under review. Compared with last year, the pool is down by roughly 15 applications, with a noticeable decline in international applicants. Approximately 110 applications remained in an “awaiting submission” status, though that category may include applicants at many different stages of completion.

Rachel also reported that the PhD CSS program had received 16 applications, with 2 denials and no admissions yet. The GCSDE program had admitted 4 applicants, and 2 had confirmed. She reminded committee members to complete pending reviews and said she would begin assigning the next batch of MS applications after the meeting.

Ankur suggested using current and recent MSCSS students to help connect the program with undergraduate advisors at their former institutions as a low-cost domestic recruitment strategy. Damiano asked whether current CSS undergraduates applying to MSCSS could be admitted before degree completion; Rachel clarified that admission may be offered contingent on completion of the bachelor's degree.

Anisha reviewed spring recruitment plans, including a 4+1 information session on April 29, additional class visits, and new GCSDE advertising ideas being developed with advancement staff. She also noted another graduate information session scheduled for Monday at noon. Wes encouraged faculty to attend when possible so prospective students can hear from faculty with different research backgrounds. Rachel added that she had created a bookings option for students interested in the 4+1 pathway.

3. Juhua: Artificial Intelligence MS program update

Juhua reported that the Office of Academic Affairs had returned another round of comments while the advisory committee is being formed, but indicated that the proposal may continue moving forward. Juhua plans to address the comments during the week and resubmit the materials the following Monday. If approved, the proposal would then move to UW Tacoma for review.

4. Wes: MSCSS Capstone Thesis Proposal Review Cycle

Wes reminded the committee that the winter-quarter proposal deadline is Friday, March 13, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. The EasyChair submission system has been set up and Rachel has circulated the link. Reviews will be assigned over spring break so approved students can enroll in TCSS 700 or TCSS 702 in spring quarter. Wes also noted that a recent FAQ/information session on the process drew roughly 15 to 20 students.

5. Wes/Rachel/Anisha: 4+1 BS/MS CSS program

Wes reported that roughly 40 to 50 CSS juniors responded to the recent survey about the proposed 4+1 program. Based on that interest, the committee plans to hold a hybrid information session on April 29 and to market it to juniors during the first weeks of spring quarter. Rachel noted that interested students can also schedule advising through her bookings page.

6. Wes: Course release policy for AY2026-27 and schedule planning

To support planning the CSS course schedule for AY26-27, a new course release policy that uses a point system to determine faculty eligibility for course releases based on student registrations was discussed.

A draft formula where PhD students count for 2.5 points, MS thesis students 1.5 points, and MS capstone/independent students 1.0 per quarter with a threshold of 4.5 points needed for one course release was presented. The discussion from faculty about the policy's fairness, timing, and implementation, with multiple participants resulted in expression of concern and it was proposed that this should be discussed further in the Grad CSS faculty meeting again after GPC and Dean have arrived at an updated document before final approval from all of SET.

The conversation ended with plans to address the course release policy feedback directly with Raj before presenting it to the full CSS faculty.

7. Next meeting: Friday April 3rd @ 10am