

CSS Graduate Committee Minutes – May 1, 2026

MDS 312/Zoom

Date: May 1, 2026

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

Location: MDS 312 & Zoom

Minutes Prepared By: Wes Lloyd

Attendance

Voting Faculty (12): Dongfang Zhao, Wes Lloyd, Mohamed Ali, Wei Cheng, Ka Yee Yeung, Martine DeCock, Donald Chinn, Paulo Barreto, Juhua Hu, Wei Cai, Zhi-Qi Cheng, Xutong Liu

Non-Voting Faculty and Staff (3): Rachel Crook, Anisha Joshi, Kira King

Absent Voting Faculty (6): Eyhab Al-Masri, Ling-Hong Hung, Damiano Torre, Ankur Teredesai, Chris Marriott, Josh Tenenberg

Absent Non-Voting Faculty and Staff (2): Aubree Steffens, Raj Katti

- Approval of minutes from April 3, 2026
 - Donald Chinn confirmed the minutes approval process can proceed without voting if no edits are requested.
 - For the April 3, 2026 no edits were requested. The April 3rd minutes were approved through unanimous consent.
- The SET Research Showcase is today, May 3rd from noon to 3pm in WPH.
- Rachel Crook provided an update on CSS graduate program registrations for AY 26-27.
 - MSCSS: 76 admitted, 21 confirmed, 6 declined, 12 denied, 17 under review
 - GCSDE: 8 admitted, 5 confirmed
- Anisha reported on recent efforts to recruit CSS graduate students.
 - We are seeing more interest for our graduate programs from Green River College. Green River now has a Bachelor's degree program in Software Development.
 - May 5: MSCSS Specific Online Information Session – CSS Faculty - Please join if available to help answer questions on CSS research opportunities. 13 to 14 prospective students are registered.
 - May 28 and June 17 at 12:30p: GC-SDE Online Information Sessions
 - A 4+1 combined BS+MS CSS hybrid information session was held on April 29th. About 4-5 students attended. We will host additional sessions and

classroom visits in the fall closer to the registration deadline which will be in November 2026.

- TCSS 557 Reinforcement Learning - Course Syllabus Review
 - Xutong Liu provided an updated course syllabus for review.
 - Prerequisites have been removed to attract more students.
 - The course is being offered as TCSS 590 this quarter and so far Xutong has received positive feedback from students and faculty.
 - For Spring 2026 the course is following a more empirical deep learning approach aligned with UW Seattle's style while still covering algorithm and theory aspects that students find interesting.
- Vote to endorse TCSS 557 Course proposal
 - Paulo Barreto moved to endorse TCSS 557 as a new CSS graduate course. The motion was seconded by Wei Cheng. The approval vote passed. The CSS graduate committee endorsed TCSS 557 as a new course.
- PhD Student Seminar Planning – Friday June 5th
 - A PhD student seminar is being planned for Friday June 5th.
- PhD Annual Student Reviews
 - Rachel Crook is sending out the annual PhD student review survey. We will review progress of PhD students in the next CSS graduate meeting on Friday May 29th. The meeting may be extended to 90 minutes to allow sufficient time.
- Graduate Handbook Updates
 - Rachel reported that the CSS graduate handbook has been split into two separate handbooks, one for the MSCSS program and one for the PhD program. MSCSS handbook updates have been completed and a revised version will be posted soon on the SET website. The PhD handbook has been reviewed and posting is pending a final review.
- Next meeting: Friday May 29, 10am