University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS)


Report by Timothy Gates (COE representative to UCGS)

May 2, 2016

1. UCGS action on courses and program change requests from College of Engineering:
   a. Sept 21, 2015
      i. APPROVED Request to establish a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering.
      ii. APPROVED Request to establish a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering.
   b. Nov 9, 2015
      i. APPROVED Request to establish a Graduate Certificate in High-Performance Computing in the Department of Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering.
      ii. APPROVED Request to establish a Graduate Certificate in Computational Modeling in the Department of Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering.
      iii. APPROVED Request to establish a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering in the Department of Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering.
      iv. APPROVED Request to establish a Master of Science degree in Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering in the Department of Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering.
   c. Jan 11, 2016
      i. Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee
         1. A dual degree proposal from Engineering was referred back to the College
      ii. Academic Research Policy Subcommittee
         1. A dual degree proposal from Engineering was referred back to the College

2. Other relevant UCGS business
   a. Graduate school rolled out a new website in April 2016
   b. Steering Committee investigated the idea of fall semester break, but the idea did not appear to be well supported from other committees
   c. MSU HR has worked with BCN to design an insurance plan that will be available to teaching assistants and will meet the new IRS guidance on graduate assistant health care subsidies under the ACA.
   d. A Proposal to Create a Code of Academic Advising Responsibility has been prepared. This was vetted through the Graduate Instruction, Employment, and Mentoring Subcommittee. After additional discussion by the committee as a whole, it was decided that the full UCGS would review the document and comment.
   e. An updated Graduate Handbook Template was approved by UCGS and posted on the Graduate School website.
f. Graduate Instruction, Employment, and Mentoring subcommittee made the following recommendations regarding RAs and TAs, which were unanimously supported by the full UCGS:
   i. 2% raise for RAs and TEs
   ii. Raise the minimum stipends for RAs and TEs to the same as TAs
   iii. Encouraged consideration of a separate tuition credit pool available for RAs and TEs

3. Future issues to be reviewed by UCGS
   a. Clarifying residency requirement
   b. Discussion of continuation fee for doctoral students
   c. Colleges will need to discuss updates to responsible conduct of research plans