Minutes of the Ph.D. Program in Computer Science Executive Committee (EC) Meeting, November 15, 2002

In attendance: Ted Brown (chair), Sergei Artemov, Gary Bloom, Yung Kong, Cullen Schaffer, Jacob Shapiro, Miriam Tausner, Audrey Mbogho (student).

The minutes of the previous meeting on October 11, 2002 were unanimously approved

I. Old Business.

1. Stephan Artmueller (student representative to EC) has resigned his position for personal reasons (birth of a child). A new student representative to EC has to be elected.

2. At the last meeting a motion to admit Constantin Negoita as a member of the doctoral faculty was tabled, pending the gathering of additional information. Constantin Negoita did not send any new information at this time.

3. The removal of foreign language requirement previously approved by EC has gone to the Curriculum and Degree Committee for presentation to the Graduate Council. This committee asked that we include additional written justification for the Council as they expect this motion to be controversial.

4. There was a lengthy discussion of Provost's request that we do not put "students are expected to publish..." into Bulletin, but rather to include it in our student handbook. There was no formal motion. Ted Brown was in favor of doing this at this time.

5. As a point of information, Ted Brown reported that out of 3 students who did not pass the first qualifying exam and appealed, 1 student got enough points to pass the exam, 1 student is planning to take the exam for the second time, and 1 student failed for the second time and left the Ph.D. program.

II. New business.

Ted Brown reported on two new initiatives (items 1 and 2 in new business) that he is planning to undertake for the benefit of our program. Item 3 of new business - discussion of Ted’s proposal to revisit first year examination format.

1. Applying for a designation of CUNY as a Center for Excellence in Information Assurance.
a) Such a designation will provide our program with more opportunities for funding.
b) The existing courses on security and John Jay’s plan to start a program in forensic computing will provide the basis for the application.
c) If we get the designation it is good for 3 years.

2. Submitting a grant application to GRANN (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need).
   This grant will provide full support for up to 8 graduate students.

3. Rethinking first year examination format.
   There was no formal motion to make any changes. The discussion considered the following:
   a) philosophy of the exam – to work as a filter for the benefit of both the program and students, a tool to enforce the breadth in students’ knowledge
   b) format and content of the first exam at other schools
   c) need to provide high quality Ph.D. level courses.

Minutes submitted by Jacob Shapiro.