Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 20th 2012

Minutes

Present: Ted Brown, Robert Haralick, Andrew Rosenberg, Abdullah Tansel, Ping Ji, Kaliappa Ravindran, Valia Mitsou, Brian Murphy

The meeting was called to order at 11:15am.

Program Standing Committees

Faculty Membership Committee

Faculty members were elected through an electronic ballot. The five faculty members are as follows:

- Ted Brown (ex officio)
- Douglas Troeger, CCNY
- Robert Haralick, GC
- Heng Ji, Queens
- Amotz Bar-Noy, Brooklyn

Curriculum and Examinations Committee

Currently accepting nominations. Existing faculty nominees:

- Douglas Troeger
- Ping Ji
- Liang Huang
- Stewart Weiss

All program standing committees should have student members on them. A side comment that was made was that the executive committee should meet at least once per semester with the whole student body and that this should be a regular meeting during which the committee should be able to do business (and not a meeting of just the EO with students).

Doctoral Students Experience Survey – Analysis of the results
Some of the major concerns of CS students were the following:

- Limited information about career prospects, especially in regards to industry
- Limited funding – too many students rely on savings or family for supporting themselves
- Program structure and course scheduling is a major obstacle in finishing their degrees
- Students are underprepared to teach (though they find their teaching experience worthwhile)
- Limited social activity opportunities through the program

Potential ways to address the first issue that were discussed during the meeting include:

- Organizing job fairs at the graduate center
- Find potential internship opportunities for students
- Contact alumni

Regarding the second point, the committee commented that this issue will be partially resolved after the restructuring of the gc.

The third point should be a major concern and requires further investigation.

There were no comments on the fourth point.

Regarding the fifth point, there is currently a discussion among dsc student representatives to create a student lounge with a more welcoming atmosphere in the lab.

Another issue that the committee found particularly problematic is the fact that too many students (more than 30%) indicated that they don’t get experience in conducting independent research or in preparing articles. A potential explanation might be that this percentage corresponds to first year students. A breakdown of percentages should be requested from the institutional research. However, this is a point which should be further examined, since there is always the possibility that advisors don’t really prepare the students for conducting independent research, but just give out a list of items to be done without discussing the overall goal or the large picture.

A major concern pointed out by the committee was the fact that many students were unaware of the existence of the travel and research grant. It was suggested that information regarding this is put on the website of the program.

As a last comment, the committee questioned the overall credibility of the results of the survey since the response rate was relatively small (under than 25%).

Copies of this survey should be distributed through means of email to the whole faculty body and to the executive committee members.

Update program governance bylaws
There is a need to update the existing bylaws and make them in line with the GC governance bylaws.

Robert Haralick motions that a 2 member ad-hoc committee is formed to look on that, Andrew Rosenberg seconds. Ted Brown makes the amendment that the committee consists of 4 people. Motion passes unanimously.

Andrew Rosenberg motions that

- the committee should examine and update the following items:
  - specify how voting is performed (possibility of online voting);
  - specify a timeline to structure program standing committees and
  - make sure that the program governance document is in line with the GC bylaws;
- the committee should only outline the areas that need to be revised; and
- the 4 members on this ad-hoc committee should be:
  - Bob Haralick;
  - Brian Murphy;
  - Andrew Rosenberg; and
  - Abdullah Tansel.

Valia Mitsou seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Adjournment