Graduate Center of CUNY

Minutes Computer Science Executive Committee Meeting October 23, 2015

Present: Robert Haralick (EO), Sergei Artemov (Governance Committee Member), Peter Brass (CCNY), Sven Dietrich (John Jay), Lev Manovich (GC), Theodore Raphan (Brooklyn), Andrew Rosenberg (Queens College), Subash Shankar (Hunter), Maryam Ghaffari Saadat, (Student), Xiuyan Ni (Student), Allan Zelener (Student)

- Agenda was approved
- The minutes of October 2, 2015 meeting were approved

Old business
- Governance Changes

New Business
- Milestone and Timeline for PhD Progress - Prof. Andrew Rosenberg discussed the program milestone and the proposal of what could be a considerable timeline for the students to make progress in the PhD program. This milestone is broad enough to cover the diverse student population the Computer Science program has. The mean for students to graduate was seven years and it has gone down to six, hence the reason for creating this milestone. The proposal provides for a short discussion about each student and have the student's mentor advise the students and provide feedback on how they are doing in terms of progress to finish the program. Students should be aware that within two years they should find out what Faculty is doing in order to make a match with a mentor.
  1. Exceptions will be made regarding health issues, external work issues, or natural disasters, this having a compassionate perspective.
  2. A mechanism is needed of what is expected from the students in the program, like levels. For example:
     - In order to go from level I to level II, students must pass the First Exam, complete 45 credits and complete the 80010 research survey course.
     - In order to go from level II to Level III, a second exam committee must be chosen, the 2nd Exam (the survey) needs to be completed, two three credit 80000 level courses must be taken.
  3. Overall Prof. Andrew Rosenberg agreed to receive feedback, and compile it.
- Governance Changes – Motion to make changes in wording were made. The importance of ensuring a principal where the Computer Science Program can be more democratic was discussed by Professor Sergei Artemov.
  1. Executive Committee
     - Page 4 of Governance of PhD Program in Computer Science – Professor Ted Raphan Motion was made to keep 4.1.3 - Motion passed.
     9 voted 1 abstention.
4.1.3 One doctoral faculty representative from each senior college offering a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems or computer science and having at least four of its members on the doctoral faculty of the CS PhD program in the senior college. An alternate shall be elected from that same college. The faculty member shall be elected by the doctoral faculty of the CS PhD program in the senior college.

- Professor Sergei Artemov discussed what the GC lawyer called a conflict of interest and what professor Haralick called maximizing faculty participation. A new Section 4.15 was moved.

4.1.5 Other than the Executive Officer, no member or alternate member of the Executive Committee may serve simultaneously as a member or alternate member of the Membership Committee.

The vote was 5 Yay 2 Against, & 3 Abstentions. The motion failed.

2. Committee on Admissions and Award – Professor Haralick explained the change in 5.1.1.3 - There was essentially no work done by the department chairs in the last two years of Admissions Committee meetings. Although the chairs can contribute because they have a unique perspective in what the faculty of the department need in terms of graduate students, its teaching responsibilities and possible departmental support, their concern was more about making sure that GCF applicants had sufficient English fluency, since they will be teaching at five of the senior colleges. In the 2013-2014 school year, the Admissions Committee did vote on a sufficient threshold for English fluency that any applicant being considered for a GCF would have to meet.

3. Professor Haralick suggested more faculty participation is needed to help looking though when the applicant folders and evaluating the applicants. The faculty also have to make contact with the applicants. This is important in getting the applicant to accept the offer. But the current governance only has two elected faculty to the Admissions Committee.

A Motion was made to change wording in 5.1.1.3 and add section 5.1.15 to the Governance.

5.1.1.3 two faculty members from different campuses elected at large by the doctoral faculty;

5.1.1.3 One doctoral faculty representative from each senior college offering a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems or computer science and having at least four of its members on the doctoral faculty,
5.1.1.5 One doctoral faculty to represent all the CUNY computer
Information system or computer science departments not meeting
the above stated membership criteria, elected by their doctoral
faculty.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

4. Faculty Membership Committee – it was moved that the wording for
section 5.3.6 be changed to:

5.3.6 All doctoral faculty nominations and recommendations for
continuation of the Faculty Membership Committee shall be
reviewed by the Executive Committee. After approval by the
Executive Committee, the nominations or recommendations of the
Faculty Membership Committee shall be sent to the Provost by the
Executive Officer. If a recommendation for continuation is not
approved by the Executive Committee, the membership of the
doctoral faculty shall be discontinued. If a nomination for
membership is not approved by the Executive Committee, the
nomination shall not be forwarded to the Provost.

The motion passed. 9 Yes, 1 Abstention.

5. Elections Committee – error in numbering was rectified. From 5.1.1
through 5.4.6 the numbers are 5.5.1, 5.5.2, and so on until 5.5.6. It was
moved to change the wording of section 5.5.1 to

5.5.1 Faculty representatives of the Elections Committee shall conduct
and certify the results of all elections for doctoral faculty. Student
representatives of the Elections Committee shall conduct and
certify the results of all elections for doctoral students (except the
elections conducted by the DSC).

Change the wording of Section 5.5.3 to

5.5.3 The Elections Committee solicits nominations for faculty
representative(s) and student representative(s) to the Graduate
Council for two year staggered terms. Only doctoral faculty
members vote for faculty representatives and only students vote for
student representatives.

Add new sections 5.5.5 and 5.5.6

5.5.5 The runners-up in the elections shall be the alternate delegates.
5.5.6 All terms of office begin July 1 and ends June 30
The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – Motion Passed Unanimous Vote.

The meeting was adjourned.