Graduate Center of CUNY

Minutes Computer Science Executive Committee Meeting Friday January 29, 2016

Present: Robert Haralick (EO), Peter Brass (CCNY), Theodore Brown (Queens College) Candido Cabo (City Tech), Sven Dietrich (John Jay), Matthew Johnson (Lehman College), Theodore Raphan (Brooklyn), Ioannis Stamos (Hunter), Zhanyang Zhang (CSI), David-Guy Brizan (Student), Xiuyan Ni (Student), Allan Zelener (Student)

- Motion to approve agenda.
  - Motion passed with unanimous vote (11)
- The minutes of November 20th, 2015 meeting were approved
  - 10 votes and 1 abstention (David-Guy Brizan)

Announcements
Budget Shortfall - The decrease in budget is drastic as discussed by Professor Haralick. The email that was sent by Interim Dean of Sciences, Dr. Joshua C. Brumberg stated the Computer Science Ph D program will be limited to admit only 14 students for the class entering the Fall 2016 semester. Last year we had 17 seats to offer. It is possible to make an agreement with the Provost’s Office for more seats if CS shows that it will be able to support more students than 14. In conclusion, a meeting with all the Chairs was suggested. Professor Haralick, Executive Officer will talk to each of the chairs to convince them of the need to support the Data Science Master’s proposal so that tuition money generated from the Data Science Masters can be used for additional GCFs thereby mitigating the negative impact to their faculty of not being able to get a student with a GCF.
- The 2016-2017 funding packages will be as follows:
  1. Eight (8) Half-Science Fellowships (no reduction)
  2. Three (3) GC Fellowships (reduction of 2 from 2015)
     - The GCFs are not transferrable: if a student with a GCF leaves the program, the money associated with the GCF goes back to the Provost Office.
  3. Three (3) Tuition Only Fellowships (reduction of 1 from 2015).
  4. Additionally we will be cut by one (1) Graduate Assistantship B (GAB) thus we will have 2 GABs to distribute.
Professor Gabor Herman – will retire next year and the Provost has no plans to continue the GC line in Computer Science.

Old business
- Course Survey Evaluations – have to be changed from spread sheet and given out to faculty.

New Business
- First Exam – Twenty three (23) students in total took the Algorithms exam. Sixteen (16) were First year students, Seven (7) were Second or Higher level
students. One (1) student from Biochemistry took the final exam. Six students appealed so an Appeal Committee was formed consisting of Professors Brass, Johnson and Herman and Allan Zelener as the student member. Professor Petingi changed the weighting of the homeworks, midterm, and final at the time of computation of course grades without the student's knowledge and the appeal committee will have to make a recommendation on what to do since some of the students who appealed have brought this issue up. The Executive Committee has the opportunity to change the passing grade from 70% but decided not to do anything until hearing from the appeal committee.

- Motion passed – 10 YAY 1 Abstention (Ted Raphan)
- It was discussed to lower the passing threshold of the Exam from 70% to 65%. It was decided that the Appeals Committee should look at this as well.
- It was discussed that the grading of the exam should not be done by one Faculty Member but rather by two.
- Professor Raphan suggested First Exam to be separated from the Course and have the two faculty members ask oral questions.
- A motion was proposed suggesting that the Curriculum Committee look at ways of separating the First Exam from the Algorithm Final.
  1. Motion Passed 12 Yay

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – Motion Passed Unanimous Vote.