Executive Committee Meeting
April 7, 2017 1 PM

In attendance: R. Haralick (Graduate Center), L. Manovich (Graduate Center), Zhanyang Zhang (Staten Island), Ted Raphan (Brooklyn College), Matthew Johnson (Lehman), Ioannis Stamos (Hunter), Abdullah Tansel (York/CityTech/Baruch), Kelsey Horan (Student Rep), Alexander Wood (Student Rep)

- Unanimous approval of agenda
- Previous minutes passed with two corrections.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee (R. Haralick)
- Assessment of professional development
- Assessment of first exam (Haralick)
  - Majority believed that the core material taught by the algorithms professor should be 80% of the topics covered.
  - Other programs do 50%
  - The syllabus for the algorithms course specifies how much time needs to be devoted to each subject.
  - Table of total students passing the exam shows that the new material has led to a higher pass rate. Committee should perform a review on whether this is the appropriate pass level we are looking for.
  - M. Johnson: There was an effort to make the exam easier this year than it was in previous years. This is a commentary on both merit and the relationship/lack of relationship between the exam and the class.
  - T. Raphan: Was there a pre-defined syllabus?
  - R. Haralick: There was – Herman made a modification.
  - M. Johnson: Herman’s previous version of this course was much more application-oriented than folks who do theoretical applications would teach. There was a disconnect between the course that was taught and the course that the exam designers thought was being taught.
  - A. Tansel: The fundamental question is what would we like the students to learn, and how do we teach them this information.
  - Recommendations given by the First Exam Committee: Given in section D of the report.
    - M. Johnson: Exams at other schools are a higher difficulty level. Does not want these questions to be our public face – hence does not want to post exams publicly online.
    - T. Raphan: Motion to not include solutions in the online database. Seconded by A. Tansel.
- **M. Johnson** amends motion proposes to in addition not publicly post the exams, seconded by K. Horan. Suggestion that the exams are posted on Blackboard by the course instructor.
- 5 in favor of making database private, no solutions; 3 against; 1 abstain. Passes.

**Status of Data Science Masters Proposal (Haralick)**
- Passed the Graduate Council
- Proposal was given to three external reviewers; R. Haralick is waiting on two responses back.
- Questions from CCNY about the proposal; Haralick went to the CCNY doctoral faculty meeting.
  - The principal concern of CCNY faculty is that if the program is committed to do the data science master’s, that means certain courses must be offered with a certain frequency; does this mean other courses will be dropped? For instance, will cryptography courses be dropped (now, we are committed to 4 every 2 years).
  - We can only teach 30 classes a year; will this create a problem? CCNY does not want to lose the flexibility of the programming we have.
  - We’ve already lost 3 classes – separately from all this.
  - Haralick will write out an agreement that the Master’s program will not block out the other courses.
  - **M. Johnson:** How do we know that we won’t lose the ability to teach a wide variety of courses?
    - **Haralick:** Needs to work on the language and systematize the course selection method.
    - **Raphan:** If the Data Science program is really going to bring more money into the program then why can’t we introduce more courses? The number of courses should grow.
    - **Haralick:** We are going to get an additional course.

**Approval of Grades on First Exam (Haralick)**
- **Previous meeting Recap & Explanation:** Last meeting we could not approve the first exam grades because the spreadsheet had inconsistencies. What caused this is as follows. Herman had graded all exams and submitted the grades. In addition, the committee graded the questions; there was no interaction between the two groups of people. The committee agreed for the grades on each question to be the maximum of the two grades for that question; thus, the scores changed. However, the set of people who passed before, and who passed with this change, remains the same.
- **Committee:** Needs to agree on the 70% passing threshold. Manovich proposes the 70% passing threshold; unanimously approved.