Minutes Computer Science Executive Committee Meeting Friday February 3, 2017

Present: Robert Haralick (EO), Peter Brass (CCNY), Ted Brown (Queens College), Sven Dietrich (John Jay), Matt Johnson (Lehman College) Lev Manovich (Graduate Center), Ioannis Stamos (Hunter College), Theodore Raphan (Brooklyn College), Allan Zelener (Student), Alexander Wood (Student), Kelsey Horan (Student)

- Motion to approve the agenda passes unanimously.
- Motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2016. Minutes approved with the following changes:
  - Under Elena Filatova changed “reapply” to “reconsider”
  - Under Alexey: changed “next year” to “last year”

Announcements
- Committee Reports
  - Curriculum Committee has met several times. Put out the Professional Development Survey. Another survey will be mailed out.

Old Business
- Data Science Master’s Proposal
  - Has gone through various levels at the Provosts Office. All the material which dealt with how the program would support PhD students had to be taken out.
  - The Master’s course option to replace the thesis was not allowed (discussed in the Curriculum Committee). Olympia Hadjiliadis suggested that course with a course project offered at Hunter College could replace this requirement.
  - Admissions requirements were explicitly spelt out; admissions requirements are the same as for the PhD program.
  - Will be put up for approval by the Curriculum Committee
  - The Graduate Council will meet in the next few weeks and will be voted upon.
- Faculty Senate Resolution Draft
  - Did not pass due to lack of quorum at last meeting; will be voted on again.
  - CCNY does not wish to have competing master’s programs and does not wish for our program to be approved.
  - Robert Haralick, EO: Our program is different from CCNY in that it has a much greater breadth of fundamental courses. There is overlap in courses such as Machine Learning and Data Visualization.
  - Our program will not be a Masters in Computer Science program as they claim.
  - Peter Brass stated Robert Haralick, EO has been invited to the senate meeting at CCNY.
  - Robert Haralick, EO, stated we need to find out if we have any support from faculty at CCNY. No statement needed to be made until it has gone through the proper channels.
Peter Brass stated that because we are using existing CS courses, it should be a masters in CS degree. Haralick counters that we chose the Data Science courses from the existing courses.

Kelsey Horan questioned whether a CS PhD student can receive the Data Science degree? Robert Haralick, EO responded that they could receive a masters En-Route to the PhD. This would simply add another option to the existing framework.

- Reconsideration of Faculty for Doctoral Faculty:
  - Itai Feigenbaum – Motion to approve as new faculty. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Elena Filatova – Motion to approve as new faculty. Motion passed, 5 in favor, 1 abstention 2 opposed,

New Business
- Report on First Exam
  - Committee began meeting in October and discussed the various questions, as well as solutions. They made up a four-question pre-exam given to students around Thanksgiving. The protocol for the exam called for the exams to be done in blue books without names on the blue books (to keep students’ identity from graders).
  - The grades given appeared to be incorrect. Peter Brass suggested we wait for a corrected version to appear at the next meeting before any action is taken.
  - Robert Haralick, EO, stated that no student complained that their grades were incorrect thus this must be an incorrect file.
  - Matt Johnson: Clarifies that you need a 70% on the exam to pass. Course grade is separate.
  - Allan Zelener asked if the exam scores were curved because there was a strange amount of 70s. Haralick: None were curved; however, a few students who had a few points below 70 went over their solutions with the committee and got points back.
  - Peter Brass suggested to see exam at the next meeting.
  - Robert Haralick, EO, would like to put exam questions and solutions on the CS website. Would like to solicit questions for exams from faculty members, and put these questions on the website. Thus we have a pool of questions for the students to study on the website. Haralick would like hundreds of questions.
  - Ted Brown: Would like this to be a local website, available only to GC students and faculty.
  - Matt Johnson: Many departments post their qualifying exams publicly.
  - Allen: Students complain that the course homework doesn’t prepare them for the exam, and end up with no resources to study for the exam.
  - Haralick: There have been no grade appeals. The appeal process works as follows: Students talk to the professor and to Haralick. If something is not resolved in that discussion they appeal to the Executive Committee, who makes an Appeal