Education Committee Meeting
Friday, May 15, 2015

Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm by Jeff Foster.

Discussion on adding a new doctoral special topics course to better label the graduate HCI courses. Jeff and Jon Froehlich briefly discussed the small issue and stated the change would be made.

Amol present the Graduate Data Science Certificate Program (Amol Deshpande):
The proposal is to create a new professional Graduate Certificate degree, consisting of four new courses.

The Admission criteria: Applicants are expected to have the following:
- An undergraduate degree (engineering/computer science preferred, but not required)
- Prior Quantitative coursework (i.e. calculus, linear algebra, etc.)
- Prior introductory to computer programming coursework (i.e. Python, Java, C++, etc.) or significant programing/systems administration experience

This will be a night time program. Funding generated by the program will go back into hiring faculty to teach the courses. There is concern about extra loads on the faculty to teach. Adjunct will be hired in the near future to teach.

The program would be administered through OES.

Khuller stated that OES takes 10% of revenue, 90% of the money goes straight back to the department. The money is not touched by the Dean’s office.

Renehan indicated that companies are showing a big interest in Data Science and will most likely participate in the program.

Pop inquired about the following: what are we voting on? Are we expected to teach a course at some point? Will Merit reviews be effected if not willing to teach those courses? Will department get upset with faculty for not teaching courses.

Sussman said that this won’t be any different than the way we schedule classes now. No one will be forced to teach these courses. Volunteers will be asked to teach courses.

Today the vote is to create the program. It will take a year for the program to go into effect.
Deshpande will create a survey and circulate this summer, if the responses are not good, then the program can be pulled.

TA support will be included for these courses.

Motion to Vote – Jeff Foster
Second the Motion – Savanah Renehan

Vote:
Yes – 31, No – 0, A – 2

Passed!

**Change in Department PHD course requirement (Jeff Foster):**

Reduced the number of course from 9 to 8. By reducing the course load this will get graduate student involved in research earlier and perform more research during their PhD.

Durswami - what would the electives be: they can be anything?

Foster stated people could take electives in their area and also take one credit reading seminars, and have early research requirements to force student to get involved early.

Durswami said that many PhD programs will let the first year PhD student wave courses in their first semester.

Foster stated that students could take an extra course if they wanted too, but it wouldn’t count towards the program.

Davis said paying GRA’s who are taking courses in their 3rd and 4th year, isn’t useful. Not a good idea, likes the program the way it is now.

Most students will take most of their courses in the first two years.

As the discussion went along the quorum was lost. Faculty felt that they weren’t ready to vote on this proposal. They want to think about the proposal over the summer.

Foster stated that they could talk more about the proposal in the fall meeting and possibly hold a vote then.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.