

## Annual Report – Graduate Program and Research Activities for AY 2014/15 – August 2015

### 1. Facts

- a. Enrollment  
90 COMG students enrolled in our graduate level classes in the fall 2014 semester.
- b. Number of courses/sections taught  
Fall 2014 – 11 courses in 11 sections (not including COSC 685, 691, 693)  
Spring 2015 – 9 courses in 9 sections (not including COSC 685, 691, 693)  
Summer 2015 – 2 courses in 2 sections (not including COSC 685, 691, 693)  
Total for AY 2014/15 – 22 courses in 22 sections (not including COSC 685, 691, 693)
- c. Number of students enrolled in our graduate level classes  
Fall 2014 – 355 students (including COSC 685, 691, 693)  
Spring 2015 – 234 students (including COSC 685, 691, 693)  
Summer 2015 – 57 students (including COSC 685, 691, 693)  
Total for AY 2014/15 – 646 students (including COSC 685, 691, 693)
- d. Number of SCH generated  
Fall 2014 – 909 SCH (including COSC 685, 691, 693)  
Spring 2015 – 623 SCH (including COSC 685, 691, 693)  
Summer 2015 – 147 SCH (including COSC 685, 691, 693)  
Total for AY 2014/15 – 1,679 SCH (including COSC 685, 691, 693)

### 2. Strategic Plan Progress

- a. Progress made in the past academic year to meet our SP goals  

Goal 3, Objective 1: Major changes were made in the admission process (effective for new graduate students starting in the fall 2015 semester), so the program will be smaller and more research-focused. The Non-Thesis option is no longer available for graduate students to pursue starting in the fall 2015 semester. Additional changes are continuously being discussed and considered by the GIC for implementation in the following years.

Goal 3, Objective 2: As per a vote taken from the graduate faculty in our program, this objective is no longer continued, and no additional actions are to be taken.

Goal 3, Objective 3: This is a long-term objective still being debated by our GIC and graduate faculty; no actions are to be taken at this time.

Goal 4, Objective 1: The department invested in hiring an external consultant (the Grant Training Center from Arlington, Virginia) to help our research faculty identify potential grants and write and submit proposals. This is the first year in which the contract is being implemented, and so its outcomes and the level of performance will be evaluated during the 2015/16 academic year.

Other: AY2014/15 was the first one in which the program's Assessment Plan has been implemented. The annual assessment report was submitted to the Department Head and was entered into the university online system (WEAVE Online) by the deadlines. The outcomes and level of performance of this plan will be evaluated during the 2015/16 academic year.

b. Areas where progress not made or failed to achieve goals

i. How will we proceed in this area to correct or overcome our deficiency

Goal 3, Objective 3: No progress was made on this objective; however, in the current environment, it is very unlikely for a new degree program to get approved by the Board of Regents, and therefore, this objective is placed on hold with no additional action to be taken in the near future.

c. Changes needed to the SP

Goal 3, Objective 2: Remove (completed).

Goal 3, Objective 3: Mark as very low priority.

3. Academic Quality Plan

a. Progress made in the past academic year to meet our AQP goals

Student learning outcomes, as listed in the AQP, are in compliance with the ACCE ones in order to maintain the graduate program's accreditation.

Assessment plan – an Assessment Plan for the graduate program was implemented for the first full year. Implementation is expected to continue in the 2015/16 academic year. The GIC will conduct regular meetings in which it assesses the level of performance of this plan.

b. Areas where progress not made or failed to achieve goals

i. How will we proceed in this area to correct or overcome our deficiency

None.

c. Changes needed to the AQP

Recommend that the AQP for the graduate program is reviewed and updated by the GIC and COSC graduate faculty.

4. Action 2015

a. Progress made in the past academic year

Action 2015 is reflected in our SP and AQP. Actions taken are discussed above.

b. Areas where progress not made or failed to achieve goals

i. How will we proceed in this area to correct or overcome our deficiency

As discussed above.

5. Diversity Plan

- a. Progress made in the past academic year

The GIC made an effort to recruit more minority students into our graduate program by offering scholarships to minority applicants who get admitted into the program.

6. Important changes needed in your unit during the next year and your suggestions on how to achieve them

- a. Slowly replace current GIC members (as their terms end) with faculty who are involved in research activities.
- b. Continue implementing new standards for admitting graduate students into the program in the fall 2016 semester. These standards need to reflect and comply with the departmental goals and plans, as discussed above.

7. Main concerns of your units performance in the next year and how you plan to address them

- a. Get faculty to participate in the implementation of the assessment plan for the graduate program might be challenging. The Graduate Program Coordinator will continue to communicate the plan and its importance to faculty teaching graduate level classes and to those who are involved with advising graduate student theses, but more help is sought from the department on this issue.

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