



Engineering Graduate Studies Committee – Annual Committee Report for 2008-2009

The Engineering Graduate Studies Committee met nine times during the 2008-2009 academic year. The major committee actions and initiatives are listed below.

1. The Committee discussed and approved two modifications to existing programs:
 - (a) 5-year combined BS/Masters program: The major revisions involve a GPA requirement for admission, allowing to double-count two graduate-level credits for the B.S. and Master’s degree requirements, and provide Summer research support to students admitted into the B.S.-M.S. program.
 - (b) Masters program in Bioengineering: This is a revised version of the previous Masters program in Biotechnology Engineering involving a name change to “Bioengineering,” and elevation of its administration to the School level through an interdepartmental Bioengineering Program Committee.
2. Two new certificate programs were discussed.
 - (a) A certificate program in Civil and Environmental Engineering was approved unanimously pending some revisions to the program description;
 - (b) A cross-disciplinary certificate program in sustainable energy put forward by the Mechanical Engineering department, in collaboration with the departments of Chemical & Biological Engineering and Electrical & Computer Engineering, was viewed favorably by the Committee, but approval was delayed until some issues are addressed by the Chairs of the three departments involved with the program.
3. The Committee has voted unanimously to require GRE scores for ALL graduate applicants to the six departments of the School of Engineering (including Tufts undergraduate students and Tufts alumni). Departments retain the right to waive the GRE requirement on a case by case basis.
4. The Committee has discussed the issue of establishing a well-defined process to communicate unsatisfactory academic/research performance to graduate students and to act on unresolved issues after a probationary period. The committee agreed that establishing a School-wide policy is desirable, and concurred on the main aspects of such policy.
5. After reviewing the department nominations for Provost’s and Dean’s Graduate Fellowships, the committee awarded four Provost’s Fellowships and eight Dean’s Fellowships. The list of recipient of the 2009 Fellowships is below, together with the decision to accept the award and join the Engineering graduate program (in the case of a decline, the institution in which the student has enrolled is indicated in parentheses). The Provost’s and Dean’s Fellowships entail a supplemental stipend of \$10,000/year for two years (in the case of the Provost’s Fellowships, \$5,000/year are contributed by the Provost’s office, and \$5,000 by the Engineering Dean’s office), with required department cost matching and a commitment to maintain support of these students through their doctoral studies.

PROVOST’S FELLOWSHIP:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Udergrad/Grad Institution</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Mark Homer	CS	MIT/MIT	No (Brown)
Kayle Shapero	BME	Princeton/Univ Coll Dublin	No (Princeton)
Alexandra Berkoff	CS	Smith College	No
James Sims	CBE	Northeastern	YES

DEAN'S FELLOWSHIP:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Xiaohu Fan	CEE	Harbin Tech/Harbin Tech	No (Michigan)
Peng Wu	CBE	Tsinghua/Tsinghua	YES
Micajah McGarity	CEE	Georgia Tech	No (Johns Hopkins)
Samuel Polio	BME	BU	No (Boston Univ)
Andrew Winslow	CS	Univ of Arizona	YES
Alex Marvin	CBE	Tufts	No (Minnesota)
Zhengzheng Wu	ECE	Fudan/SIMIT (Chinese Acad. Sci)	No (Michigan)
Frank Saunders	ME	UMass Amherst/Tufts	YES

6. The committee reviewed the department nominations for two Engineering award programs. The following students have been selected by the committee to receive the 2009 Engineering Graduate Awards:

Award for Outstanding Graduate Contributor to Engineering Education:

Brett Boghigian (Chemical and Biological Engineering)

Susan Tse (Mechanical Engineering)

Award for Outstanding Graduate Researcher:

Michael Lovett (Biomedical Engineering)

Ryan Nolan (Chemical and Biological Engineering)

Michael Horn (Computer Science)

7. The committee discussed a number of graduate issues related to teaching and research assistantship registration, recorded auditing of courses, advertising our graduate programs in magazines/websites/etc, improving the yield of our admission offers, enhancing the academic quality and visibility of our graduate programs, etc. These discussions have either led to specific actions, or have started activities, often in coordination with the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, aimed at enhancing the level of our graduate programs and the graduate experience at Tufts. Some of these topics will be further discussed by the Committee over the next Academic Year.
8. The Committee was visited by Karen Vagts, Engineering Ref. Librarian, who reported on a number of initiatives/opportunities at Tisch Library for Engineering education and research, and by Travis Brown, Program Manager for the Center for STEM Diversity, who reported on diversity-related initiatives in Arts & Sciences and Engineering in STEM areas (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).
9. The assistance of the staff of the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, in particular Gretchen Inman and Alida Poirier, were of great help to the committee.

The committee Chair would like to take this opportunity to thank all Committee Members for their collegiality and hard work during this very productive year.

For the committee,

Sergio Fantini, Chair

2008-2009 Engineering Graduate Studies Committee Membership:

Caroline Cao (Mechanical Engineering)

Mark Cronin-Golomb (Biomedical Engineering)

Christos Georgakis (Chemical & Biological Engineering)

Rob Hannemann (Gordon Institute)

Roni Khardon (Computer Science)

Eric Miller (Electrical & Computer Engineering)

Andrew Ramsburg (Civil & Environmental Engineering)

Ex-officio: Sergio Fantini (Associate Dean for Graduate Education, Chair)

Alida Poirier (Associate Director, Office of Graduate Studies)