

CEGSAC 2017-2018 Meeting Minutes

CEGSAC Q&A Session with Prof. Rao Govindaraju

01/31/2018

The Q&A Session started around 5:15pm in HAMP 1252 with Ali making an introduction about how the session was going to be held. He then introduced Dr. Rao Govindaraju to start the session.

Q: Thank you for the storage space for CGSAC. Can we get a sharing space for CGSAC?

A: The room that you wish to share is a small room and there are constraints when it comes to request a space for a student organization. You can use the Faculty Lounge for some certain events. Let Jenny know. The Faculty Lounge is constrained for some events but it can be used for coffee breaks and lunches.

Q: Can we add more computers? The current ones are not always available.

A: It is possible to get more computers but in order to do that we need to get more space and there is also the license issue. The building is going through renovations. After the renovations, we are planning to have a space for computer labs.

Q: How do we know what courses we should take before hand?

A: Usually courses are a one-year cycle and sometimes two years. Graduates courses are usually not cancelled and it depends on the Professor.

Q: How does TA's are going to be allocated to graduate students?

A: They look on undergraduate classes and how many undergrads they need. Based on that, they decided how many TA's would they need. Sometimes, they select special TA's for some extra help with the students. The Professor selects the TA's.

Q: Why not make the assistantship offers more visible to graduate students rather than faculty members selecting them?

CEGSAC 2017-2018 Meeting Minutes

A: Graduate students should let their advisers know. A suggestion is to make the faculty be aware of all the students who are looking.

Q: On the weekends, after 10pm the ventilation on the offices located in the basement stops. Can we change the policy for the ventilation system?

A: We do this to save energy and money. This is not a decision made by the building management. I will ask because they don't have that control. The solution to that is build a whole new building but that requires a huge amount of money.

Q: Why not setting off the switch of some places on campus and turning on others to save energy?

A: It's a matter of a system and safety issue.

Q: We have seen courses like Data Mining in Computer Science. If a Civil Engineering wants to register, it has to be through a waiting list because they give priority to CS students and they get full fast. Are there any resources for those courses in that department?

A: The solution is for Computer Science to add more sections. Civil Engineering will not be offering those courses.

Q: If there are new courses offered, how can we know about it?

A: If there are enough students, the new course is proposed.

Q: How many students should be interested?

A: It has to be something that Professors are able to do, because it can get more challenging.

CEGSAC 2017-2018 Meeting Minutes

Q: How can we balance research and Professional Development time?

A: Nobody has an answer for time management. If it's a priority, you make the time. A faculty member is told that the student courses and research belongs to the student. For research is more flexible. For TA's there is a model for the time management.

Q: Are graduate students able to do internships?

A: Graduate students can do internships. The challenge for international students is that they are looking for future employees and check the VISA rules. Not an issue with domestic students.

Q: Is there a procedure when you are not being treated fairly?

A: There are resources when you can get to such as the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and Ombuds.

Q: Is there some sort of mediator that can help or support the student in this situation before taking the complaint outside of Civil Engineering?

A: You can talk to either Jenny, Dr. Abraham or Dr. Aickerson. Unless the student allows it, I cannot talk to that Professor about the situation. It can be kept in confidence. It's a difficult step, especially when the Professor is your adviser. We do what we can to protect the student.

Q: The Construction Management students are not able to take the Building and Construction courses (Polytechnic School) for the Plan of Study, even though they are interesting?

A: There has to be a distinction between the Technology School and Purdue Engineering. You are allowed to take course outside the Plan of Study.

Ali thank Dr. Govindaraju for his time and the Q&A Session ended around 6:45pm.