The Complaint

Pete Santiago, Donna Reese, Justine Cassell, Gary Leavens
Problem

The CS Grad Student Council president and vice-president complain that the graduate core curriculum is outdated, uninteresting, and leaves students ill-prepared for Qualifying Exams.

The Grad Committee chair blames today’s “complacent and self-indulgent” students.
The Issues

• Lack of alignment between graduate coordinator and student council leaders.
• Graduate coordinator taking an unhelpful stance.
• Lack of information to understand whether changes are needed.
• Do the student leaders represent the broad grad student population?
Guiding Principles

• Make sure all stakeholders are heard.
• Need evidence.
• Keep open mind.
• Be aware of procedures for adjusting curriculum.
• Tackle problem quickly.
Suggest Approaches

• Set a committee with at least one more student.
• Ask committee to find evidence by talking with alumni and other universities.
• Have students summarize and have specific recommendations.
• Bring to faculty for discussion.