

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

March 7, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

WEBEX

Council in Attendance:

Mike Wittie (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Michael Brody (Faculty Senate)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Rachelle McLain (Library)
Jane Mangold (Agriculture)
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)

Absent:

Maureen Kessler (Student Representative)
Scott Creel (Letters & Science)
Dawn Tarabochia (Health & Human Development)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters & Science)

Meeting started at 10:01 am on WebEx

Feb 7, 2022 minutes

- Motion to approve by Wittie, 2nd by Aig, motion passes: 4 pass, 0 oppose, 1 abstain

Announcements

- **Update from the Dean**
 - Current war in Ukraine. No current MSU grad students are from Ukraine; two current students from Russia, Dean has been in contact with them. There is talk nationally about students potentially being re-placed in grad programs in the US, but this may take a while
 - Graduate students may soon be allowed to travel internationally to conferences again; proposal currently with the Provost
 - Current graduation applications: above 450. Usually in the mid-300s
 - Potential workflow for new graduate policies or procedures—from UGC to JAGS (Faculty Senate); feedback?
 - What does “elsewhere” mean on flow chart?
 - Other bodies like Faculty Senate or University Council, depending on the type of policy/who it affects

- Is there a way to put time-bounds on the feedback? So things don't get stuck in other committees?
- **Faculty Senate update (Brody)**
 - Meeting with Board of Regents (BoR) Thursday morning (private meeting). The main items are:
 - Disproportionate effects of the pandemic, especially on gender and race
 - Cost of living (affects faculty recruitment)
 - Faculty well-being
 - If UGC has other items from a faculty perspective, please share with Michael Brody

Old Business

- **Age of Courses, potential revision, discussion of feedback council members received from departmental/college colleagues**
 - Current draft changes age of courses limit to 7 years for master's, specialist, and doctoral
 - Arts: colleagues adamant not to increase limit to 7 years for the MFA
 - Arch: master's program is 1.5 years, students typically graduate prior to 6 year limit
 - Engr: en route credits subject to age of courses policy—problematic for C of Engr. Don't want to include en route credits in age of courses. Students often complete MS and take time to finish PhD because working, etc.
 - Current practice is for appeals to include student staying current in field
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 - Education: low SES students could be disproportionately impacted. Not sure if this is reason for attrition or more the entry and exit points when things go “wrong” for them and need to leave and later restart.
 - Q: where is this coming from? Time to degree?
 - Mainly. Nationally moving in this direction
 - Next steps: keep master's/specialist where they currently are, move doctoral to 7; Tabled for vote until next meeting, then send to JAGS for feedback
 - Important to think about financial piece to returning/completing
- **Graduation policy: Certificate enrollment requirement (policy draft)**
 - Drops registration requirement to one (1) credit (instead of three (3) credits for a master's or doctoral or specialist degree)
 - No feedback from colleges
 - Some agreement is logical change
 - Tabled for vote until next meeting
- **Dissertation/thesis language for website**
 - Guidelines, not policy; edited since first reading
 - Seems inclusive and broad enough
 - Will update Graduate School website with language

New Business

- **Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Food Systems, Level I proposal (first reading)**
 - A lot of momentum behind proposal, crosses a lot of fields

- Dean Ogilvie has started conversation with The Registrar re: courses that span two semesters with the seasons
- Some concern about teaching courses/paying for specialists to create content
 - Summer teaching not covered in normal contracts
- Faculty aligned with program are top-notch
- Can courses be used toward a master's degree at MSU? Add language about this
- What are community engagements for graduates? Can feature more prominently at start of proposal
 - Letters of support from communities would be helpful—or list of those tribal communities that have signed on to the Buffalo Nation Project (listed at front of proposal)
- Will send questions/comments to proposers and review at next meeting on March 21
- **Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership & Administration, Level I proposal (first reading)**
 - Already existing online cert from Univ Montana with same title
 - Provost Office is occasionally comfortable with approving a program with the same title as one at UM
 - Proposers need to explain more clearly how this program is different, that UM is on board with MSU program, and info about how UM program is working (enrollments, completions)
 - UM department offering cert is Public Administration & Policy. MSU department is Political Science (who also offers Master of Public Administration degree)
 - Proposal mentions employment data—would be helpful to include a report in proposal
 - Improve learning outcomes section
 - Want to offer first classes in summer 2022—too soon, needs update
 - Certificate is connected to MPA, credits can be used toward master's
- **Programs with minor changes that will be reviewed by curriculum subcommittee and are available to Council on the shared drive:**
 - APEC-MS changes
 - CIDE-EDD changes
 - CIES-EDS changes
 - DNMH-DNP changes
 - DNPN-DNP changes
 - ENED-MA changes
 - ENGR-MENG changes
 - ME-PHD changes
 - NURS-MN changes
 - PMDN-DNP changes
 - Next step is to review feedback at next meeting
 - Faculty Senate: process is the same. Often notice learning outcomes have not been updated in many years and send back for more revision
 - FS members all have access to CiM as reviewers (cannot edit) and therefore they don't make pdfs
 - FS asks UGC to send CiM links to courses before it gets to FS in workflow
 - Chair Livingston will ask Keely Holmes if UGC members can be added as reviewers in CiM

Adjourned at 11:28 am

Next scheduled meeting – March 21, 2022