

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

March 17, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

WEBEX

Council in Attendance:

Mike Wittie (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Lisa Davis (Letters & Science)
Tricia Seifert (Education)
Bradford Watson (Faculty Senate)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters & Science)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Brock Smith (Agriculture)
Dawn Tarabochia (Health & Human Development)
Sara Mannheimer (Library)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

Emily Peters (Graduate School)

Absent:

Dennis Aig (Arts)
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Que Vo (International Programs)
Maureen Kessler (Student Representative)

Meeting started at 9:04 am on WebEx

March 3, 2021 minutes

- Motion to approve by Wittie, 2nd by Seifert, unanimous approval

Announcements

- **Graduate Dean update**
 - Hooding ceremony approved for Friday before commencement
 - Planned for 3-6pm outside of Montana Hall
 - University proposing leave of absence policy
 - Voluntary (Graduate School approval) and involuntary (Dean of Students)
 - Review age of courses policy so student is not penalized when they return
 - Open for questions/comments:
 - Appreciate including age of courses
 - An intentional leave of absence makes a lot more sense for some students than just not registering
 - Would appreciate more departmental discretion for age of courses
 - Faculty senate reviewed the leave of absence policy last week
 - University leadership discussing guns on campus: law scheduled to go into effect June 1st

- Considering stressful situations (student meetings, defenses, etc.): students can have a gun with them, but if that gun is ever removed from holster, it is grounds to stop the meeting/event and call 911
 - Only allowed to pull gun out of holster if you are in immediate physical harm
- Police officers discussing providing additional training on firearm safety
- Open Discussion
 - Senate leadership across MUS system met with BOR and OCHE to discuss this topic and urged BOR and OCHE to create strictest management plan possible
 - Encourage public comment urging BOR to do everything in their power, including requesting additional resources from legislation to keep the campus safe
 - What measures are being taken to train faculty on how to handle these situations?
 - Campus police provide active shooter training
 - Also need trainings on having difficult dialogues, de-escalation
 - Call 911
 - Do faculty have recourse when anticipate a discussion is going to be contentious? Schedule a remote meeting?
 - Possibility, but must be careful about treating students equally
 - Plain clothes police officer can be invited to attend
 - Other universities have faced similar legislation; mainly concealed and about 10% carry
 - MSU will be the first campus to allow 18-year old's to carry
 - Accidental discharge and suicide are being addressed as primary concerns
- **Faculty Senate update (Watson)**
 - JAGS will meet next week to review annual review, post tenure review, and grievance policy; hope to adopt before end of term
 - Proposed bylaws to senate: chair-elect and past chair—to oversee subcommittee of senate
 - Chair-elect would not have to come from the body of senate

New Business

- **Professional Certificate in Geospatial Science and Analysis**
 - Online program targeting professionals and those seeking to enhance skillset
 - Who would be teaching these courses?
 - Faculty in Earth Sciences and LRES
 - NTT faculty? Where are the resources coming from?
 - Support of the 2 departments; Following existing model of TT with some NTTs teaching
 - Pg. 6: department will use 24k in instructional NTT budget; entirely taught by NTTs. Are people comfortable with this? Financial constraints versus quality?
 - For professional programs, have some very talented professionals with expertise in their field

- Seems appropriate for university to have commitment to graduate programs with TT faculty teaching; TT faculty usually have more of an association to MSU
- NTT doesn't necessarily have concerns with quality – those directly in the field may have the highest quality in a classroom setting – but NTTs usually are not as oriented to the entire university (support services, etc.). Invite the university to think about strong onboarding for these NTT faculty, so they have the knowledge to best support students.
- Section that a graduate student will be hired to develop courses over the summer could be revised – not entirely accurate
- Concern with credential programs being housed not within an academic unit, but within a center. Could be problematic that it's not homed in either department.
 - Review Material Science example: academically housed in the graduate school and pay additional compensation to the faculty leaders
 - Could shift the academic home to the graduate school; the administrative work could be done by the center
- Program Admin required, but no money attached?
 - Provost could be willing to provide more financial support once there is a larger number of students; work on revising proposal to start without a full-time position
 - Could be helpful to specify a dollar amount, percentage of workload
 - Is the vision for the admin to take care of the paperwork but the faculty to handle admissions, advising, etc.?
 - This could be clarified in the proposal: separate the administrative and faculty role
- Resources on pg. 7: references attachments, but no supporting documents attached
- UM does have a GIS program - articulate the differences between the programs
- Add credit amounts to curriculum requirements section
- Strategic goals should list the current strategic goals
- Livingston and Dean Ogilvie will provide feedback to the proposers
- **MS-Sustainable Food Systems Online Option:**
 - Existing program requesting to add an online option (level I proposal)
 - Hybrid mode once they have enough students
 - Table of how many students they have would be helpful – their demand justification is program inquires and capacity of faculty to teach courses
 - STAT 511 is usually pretty full. Would these courses be taught online? Are the courses in these different disciplines already offered in that mode?
 - EDCI 501 is online, but already close to capacity
 - Letters from colleges/department heads would be helpful – acknowledging this demand and plan for capacity
 - What's the value in online and face-to-face versus converting to online with opportunities for face-to-face meetings? How are they making the justification for both? Double the work for a small number.
 - Seeing growth in altruistic programs. Current enrollment in this program last fall was 7; not a large program, but is growing
 - Discussion on best practices for remote learning
 - Suggestion that CFE could provide workshops on this topic

- Does the course sequence have to start in the fall? Approval process is pretty quick for this level; ask proposers to state that it needs to start in fall 2022 instead of spring 2022
- Provide feedback to proposers

- **Video Conferencing Policy Discussion**
 - Moving forward, what do we want to do about exam and defenses policy? Currently under covid exception allowing virtual exams and defenses.
 - Go back to old policy? Keep covid flexibility - allow virtual exams and defenses? Keep some aspects of flexibility, but add restrictions?
 - Virtual has worked well – some students have moved out of state, full workdays, etc. In favor of keeping virtual as an option.
 - Concerns over health safety will likely persist into the future; people will likely still want distance options – good to have flexibility
 - Virtual defenses have high attendance – great to have family members from across the world able to attend
 - Solves a problem with faculty members being on sabbatical
 - Would be difficult to go back after we've figured out how to do it
 - Consensus: keep flexibility with some procedural restrictions (ex: with disconnections, attempt to get back within a set time limit, reschedule if necessary)
 - Graduate School staff will draft a revised policy

Adjourned at 10:25 am

Next scheduled meeting – March 31, 2021 WEBEX