

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

September 24, 2020

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

WEBEX

Council in Attendance:

Mike Wittie (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Brock Smith (Agriculture)
Mark Pernarowski (Letters & Science)
Tricia Seifert (Education)
Dawn Tarabochia (Health & Human Development)
Bradford Watson (Faculty Senate)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters & Science)
Anne Christensen (Business)
Que Vo (International Programs)
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Doralyn Rossmann (Library)
Maureen Kessler (Student Representative)

Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Emily Peters (Graduate School)

Absent:

Wade Hill (Nursing)

Meeting started at 1:03 pm on WebEx

September 10, 2020 minutes

- Motion to approve by Wittie, 2nd by Dunlop, unanimously passed

Announcements

- **Update from the Dean:**
 - Fall census numbers: graduate enrollment up about 60 students (approximately 3% growth); increase primarily in master's students
 - Observed higher numbers in “altruistic” programs: potentially reflecting current ethos of graduate students
 - Graduate enrollment was up across the MUS system
 - Second annual candidacy celebration will be held virtually on October 27th: celebration for doctoral students that passed their comprehensive exams in past year
 - Proposed a hooding ceremony for commencement
- **Faculty Senate update (Watson)**
 - COVID taskforce updates

- Discussing the mental health of campus and what we are doing to support students and faculty
- Reviewing blended learning modalities; collecting input from GTAs; official results forthcoming
 - Open discussion on how options are currently working
- After this academic year, will revise contracts for graduate and family housing
 - Currently housing faculty and staff, which was never the intent, and having to turn away graduate students
 - May increase availability for incoming graduate students

Old Business

- **Vice Chair:** Tricia Seifert will serve as vice chair
- **Certificate in Mental Health Support**
 - Council requested more information on demand for the program and resources
 - Received surveys from stakeholders, not necessarily demand from students
 - Resources are outside the purview of UGC—handled by the department and the Provost’s office
 - Council can vote to approve, not approve, or approve with concerns (attach a letter of concerns to the proposal)
 - Call for comments
 - The certificate provides important education for professionals
 - Council asked legitimate questions and those should be addressed
 - UGC should consider whether a program is viable, but the dean of the college already signed off on the proposal and is willing put the financial backing behind it
 - Question was not about whether the funds would be there, but rather if the proposed funds would be enough to ensure students get the support they need
 - Q: What would the certificate enable the recipient to do?
 - A: Designed to provide additional knowledge to working teachers and school leaders; these employees often called upon to serve in trauma informed roles without the pedagogical background to do so
 - Valuable to clarify UGC’s role in program proposal review
 - This clarification could also be in the CIM system
 - UGC’s role is to make sure it serves graduate students well, but with the breadth of experience on the council, it can also be beneficial to provide feedback to help the proposal succeed down the line
 - At the undergraduate level, the committee revisited its mission to make sure they were providing a consistent vision
 - Graduate students are a growing demographic, is there a possible mechanism for the council to recommend areas of growth for the university – advocate for more lines or more resources in important areas
 - Carve out time in the agenda for this type of discussion
 - Motion to approve the certificate in its current form made by Seifert, second by Pernarowski
 - Motion passes: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

- **Graduate Certificate Policy**
 - Review proposed policy language
 - This will go on the graduate school website in the policy section
 - Revisited concerns of the specificity
 - Would we want to adjust our policy based solely on what industry would fund?
 - May want to provide flexibility for specific training because of what an industry needs; state does not have more authority for what is needed than a business
 - Able to be flexible but not in any way that compromises the academic integrity
 - Policy subcommittee will revise the proposal based on the feedback and bring back to council

- **Sub-committee member updates**
 - Policy sub-committee: Catherine Dunlop and Mike Wittie
 - Curriculum sub-committee: Dawn Tarabochia

- **Removing central requirement for doctoral coursework past master's (Ogilvie): tabled**

New Business

- **Short-term task forces:** tabled

- **Cybersecurity MS, Level II program proposal:**
 - Overview: demand for cybersecurity, will also benefit undergraduate students to have faculty in this area, research funding in this area that can help the program grow
 - Call for comments:
 - Nothing mentioned about the committee structure; this should be described in the proposal
 - NTT person cannot chair a committee – would put this on a TT faculty. Feasibility with the faculty resources was unclear.
 - Who is administering the program?
 - Details on the accelerated master's unclear
 - All required courses, no flexibility for students to take electives
 - Curriculum is standard to the industry; there is a prescribed set of courses much like a certificate program
 - Could include a phrase that allows some flexibility for an independent study, to at least accommodate unique situations
 - Curriculum relatively undeveloped; planning a curriculum around faculty that do not yet exist
 - The courses need to be planned along strict guidelines. The material must be developed, but the parameters are pre-determined.
 - Q: Proposal discussed the new research facility on campus for cybersecurity, but students will not be in any research credits?
 - A: The lab is needed for the coursework
 - In practice, the students will be getting involved in research. How does this involvement translate to making progress toward their degree? Maybe an independent study would help.
 - Q: What does this offer that the Gallatin College program doesn't?

- A: Gallatin college prepares students for monitoring/tracking cybersecurity programs. A master's level student would be the one designing/creating the cybersecurity program.
- Observation that there is a \$3,000 program fee, although this matter is outside the lane of UGC
 - Due to the cost of the lab
- Livingston will send feedback to the proposer
 - If any additional questions or concerns, email them to Livingston in the next few days

Adjourned at 2:30 pm

Next scheduled meeting – October 8, 2020 WEBEX