

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

September 27, 2022

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

President's Conference Room

Council in Attendance:

Stephan Warnat (Engineering)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)
Amy Reines (Sciences)
Michael Everts (Architecture)
Jane Mangold (Agriculture)
Jennifer Thomson (Faculty Senate)
Brian Rossmann (Library)
Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)
Heidi Koenig (Student Representative)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

Emily Peters (Graduate School)

Absent:

Arts Representative

Meeting started at 1:00 pm

August 30, 2022 minutes

- Motion to approve by Warnat, 2nd by Reines, motion passes: (9 in favor, 1 abstention)

Announcements

- **Update from the Dean**

- Fall 2022 census number: 2057 graduate students
 - 2nd highest fall enrollment on record
- MSU received US Department of Education childcare grant (collaboration between Graduate School, Department of Education, ASMSU): 360,000/yr for 4 years
 - Staff member to support student parents
 - After hours daycare
 - Funding for student parents to pay for childcare (estimate 50 students, \$250/month). Majority of funding will probably go to graduate and Gallatin College students – graduate students currently aren't eligible for the state childcare funds that undergraduates can receive.

- **Faculty Senate update (Thomson):**
 - Recent presentation on student mental health and utilization of mental health services on campus—data should be coming out to departments from faculty senate rep
 - BOR met last week
 - Changes to academic suspension and academic probation
 - Increased dependent tuition waivers to 2 dependents waivers at a time and earlier eligibility

New Business

- SCNS-MED School Counseling program changes
 - Review of program changes:
 - Designed to meet mental health needs, need for comprehensive clinical training
 - Mandated for national accreditation to increase from 48 to 60 credits
 - The 12 credits are existing classes—no new instructors or classes needed
 - Benefits: need to have the clinical training in the school setting, need for trauma informed care, students become dually licensed eligible, graduating with 60 credits as public educators starts students at the top end of the pay scale.
 - Currently up for accreditation, imminent need to have this approved. Would be helpful to have the approval in process for November accreditation visit.
 - How will going from 48 to 60 credits be accommodated by current resources?
 - A: Currently 5 TT faculty members, 2 NTT faculty members. 8:1 faculty to student ratio. No new sections needed. Electives can be taken outside of the counseling program.
 - Concern that this will be a 25% cost increase for students. Based on the university internship policy, students could receive more credits for the internship and practicum hours required by the program. Is it possible to right size the credit hours? Example: 6 additional internship credits instead of the 6 additional electives. This could put students above the 12-credit tuition flat spot a semester. Might reduce their cost while meeting accreditation requirements.
 - Proposers will discuss this option
 - Suggest making sure any changes to the internship or practicum credit hours still meet the accreditation requirements
 - Is the program confident the accrediting body will hold the deadline?
 - Can create a competitive disadvantage in the market if your program is an early adopter and ends up requiring more credits than other programs
 - Confident the date will stay the same. Some students also are already choosing to take 60 credits because they want to be comprehensively trained and dually licensed.
 - Have there been any conversations about moving to a doctorate since the program is at 60 credits?
 - UM does have a doctoral level program
 - Accreditation requirements for a doctorate would be 60 credits on top of the master's
 - Suggest it would be helpful to have both UM and MSU credit changes reach BOR at the same time
 - UM school counseling masters has already changed to 60cr

- Potential vote at next meeting

- Full-time graduate student (Ogilvie on behalf of Registrar)
 - Full-time has 2 places:
 - 1) External: MUS uses 12 credits to determine headcounts, census, FTE reporting, etc.
 - 2) Internal: universities have flexibility to internally define full-time for financial aid, international visa regulations, veteran benefits, etc.
 - Working to redefine the internal definition (#2) of a full-time student
 - Currently: 9 or more credits is full-time for graduate students at MSU
 - Proposing: 9 or more credits or 6 or more credits and having an assistantship (GRA, GTA, GSA); at the moment this does not specify hours of assistantship
 - Potential benefits for financial aid, simplify veteran and international paperwork
 - Ask for feedback from Council. Do you see any unintended consequences? Is there anything within your department that you use full-time for?
 - Will this impact the student fees?
 - No this is triggered at change from 6 to 7 credits, not based on full-time status. Would not impact health insurance or Montana resident status.
 - Would be beneficial for international students, research students
 - This would allow students to apply for full-time scholarships at 6 credits with an assistantship
 - Impact on time to degree?
 - Most students end up taking more than the required number of research credits. Don't anticipate a significant impact on time to degree.

- Sub-committees:
 - Policy and procedures committee
 - Review current continuous enrollment draft based on Council's feedback
 - Curriculum committee
 - Review course proposals/changes
 - Review some program changes without substantial changes (e.g., accelerated program proposals)
 - Dunlop and Ogilvie typically determine which program changes go to full Council versus subcommittee
 - All new programs go to full Council
 - Governance committee
 - Diversity Equity and Inclusion subcommittee
 - Would be helpful to have graduate student representative from the university Diversity Council sit on this committee
 - Process for appointing a vice chair

Adjourned at 2:13 pm

Next scheduled meeting – October 11, 2022