

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 8, 2023

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

SUB Ballroom C

Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Heidi Koenig (Student Representative)
Scott Powell (Agriculture)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters)
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Stephan Warnat (Engineering)
Brian Rossmann (Library)
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Amy Reines (Sciences)

Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
David Miller (IME)

Absent

Rollin Beamish (Arts)
Stephanie McCalla (Faculty Senate)

Meeting started at 10:02 a.m.

October 25, 2023 minutes

- Motion to approve by Livingston, Powell 2nd, 9 pass, 0 abstention, motion passes

Announcements

- Update from the Dean
 - Housing consult meeting is next week; Dean Ogilvie has prepared grad student data to share
 - Q: Do we know what % grad students live in student housing?

- 1400-1500 students on Bozeman campus and about 1/3rd in Univ Housing
 - ~430 students in univ housing
 - Suggestion from Council: send out a two-question survey about housing to grad students
 - Q: International students use housing?
 - Majority of them do and can be difficult to find off-campus housing
- Scholarly works ETD
 - Dean has had initial meeting with Library and has sent suggestions to GS ETD formatting advisor
 - Plans to bring suggestions to Council at December 6 meeting
- Dean Ogilvie wants to explore 8-week course options for some programs
 - Addictions Counseling already has 8-week course options
 - Comment: would be helpful even in research programs—would allow students to do courses and research activity during the same semester. May decrease time to degree
- Compassion Project session Nov 16, 3-5pm; sign up on Grad School wellbeing website
- Open Comment
 - 11,000 students at MSU went to counseling support; do we know numbers for graduate students?
 - Betsy Asserson would have that data
- Faculty Senate update (McCalla)
 - Absent

Old Business

- Continued discussion on ETD process
 - Grad School developed a form draft
 - Department feedback:
 - Ag: feedback was not supportive
 - Don't need another form or more oversight, more work for major prof
 - Are already giving feedback on actual document
 - Letters: feedback was not supportive
 - Don't want another form to manage
 - Eng: mixed feedback
 - Could be useful to help students, same concerns as other depts (another form to manage, oversight, etc)
 - Educ: Could it be discretionary?
 - Can be added as backside of form and if it arrives blank, that is acceptable
 - International: anecdotally, every day students bring an email from faculty and ask for assistance interpreting it
 - Could student request it (demand it)?

- A standard practice would help students
 - Sciences: no feedback yet
 - Nursing: Interpretation of comments could be an issue
 - Q: How many students a semester are having problems with ETD content changes/advisor?
 - ~5 a semester
 - On hold for more feedback. Best practice to get feedback is to email GCs/DHs for depts in your college
- Clarify policy language on graduate certificate students and assistantships
 - Current draft states certificate students and non-degree are **not** eligible
 - Dept feedback
 - Ag: should allow it. Hard to find GTAs as it is
 - Letters: master's and PhD's should be prioritized, even from different colleges/programs.
 - Could there be more communication among depts to support existing master's and doctoral students?
 - Eng: difficult to find students and are in active discussions right now about GTA appointments in first year (don't have cert students)
 - HHD: vast majority of addictions counseling students are employed in place and the program is built around that idea.
 - Could make certs eligible and keep ND not eligible—does not mean certs would definitely be appointed
 - Giullian moves to approve policy with amendment to add note about hiring hourly, Hill seconds
 - Discussion
 - Doesn't make sense to exclude and there is a need. Because we are a land grant university would make sense to support Montana place-based students
 - Why would we exclude if master's and PhD are already prioritized—doesn't seem like there is a competition
 - Franklin moves to omit language that excludes certificate-seeking, Reines seconds
 - Chair Dunlop requests a revised policy for the December meeting and a vote then; Hill moves to table, Powell second, motion passes
- Master of Engineering in Manufacturing Engineering (guest David Miller from IME)
 - Program has been in development for many years
 - Strong faculty for course instruction
 - UGC sent list of questions; budget, courses, accelerated
 - Dr. Miller in agreement on changes but not made yet
 - Q: Learning outcomes question—how will students be prepared to conduct experiments or learn business, financial, and management tools? Courses don't seem to support that
 - A: 3 cr internship

- Internship is elective. Could you explain which courses are tied to those learning outcomes?
 - Yes, will add the details
- Q: Would dept consider the core as a certificate? That path could be easier for the program and a way to get students into those courses.
 - A: Hadn't considered it yet but could.
- Q: Accelerated info needed
- Q: 12 cr of 400 not ideal and more than current policy of a max of 9cr. Could reduce?
 - A: Will discuss with department
- Q: MEng is coursework only but it says students pick an elective from 575, 592, and 598. Is one required?
 - A: Yes, one is required. Will clarify
- Q: What does quality advising look like? Do you have the capacity on your own to do it?
 - A: Quality advising at the graduate level is knowing where they are in the program and what progress are they making? It's meeting with students. Internships could be done on campus, running ME machine shops, helping with undergrad capstones.
- Q: Do you think students would have the staff help needed?
 - A: Will be supported by the current staff
- Q: Needs assessment: who are the first cohort?
 - A: Undergrad alums who are local and not local who want a higher degree to advance their careers
 - International company opening a facility in Montana and need manufacturing master's degree students. Spoke to them and they are open to helping with internships, etc.
- Q: Resources, no initial investment? How does it work developing the program without resources?
 - A: Newer faculty areas work well with this program and have naturally started to offer courses that work as electives for the program
 - Smaller ask from department faculty because of this—need to develop and teach only the core four courses
 - Adding more info about how the rollout will go might help
- Q: Sustainability is a charge of UGC. How do you see setting up the program for success long term?
 - A: Would rely on professional staff to adjunct; a lot of experts in the Gallatin Valley
- Q: Is a master's degree required for industry?
 - A: Yes, master's degree is more important but not needed for an engineering license
- Once changes are made, Council can vote at next meeting on Dec 6

Updates from subcommittees

Public comment

Adjourned at 11:31 am

Next scheduled meeting – December 6th in SUB Room 236