

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Linfield 214

Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)

Ann Ewbank (Education)

Mary Miles (Health & Human Development)

Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)

John Borkowski (Sciences)

Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)

Tim LeCain (Letters)

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Also in Attendance:

Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)

Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

Absent:

Christopher Livingston (Architecture)

Meeting started at 2 pm

This was the first meeting of spring term. Meeting scheduled for January 20th, 2016 was cancelled due to illness and travel.

By email communication, Dean Hoo asked that council approve the appointment of Tim LeCain as chair of UGC as a result of Alan Dyer's resignation due to illness and vice-chair Borkowski's continued health issues. The vote by email approved Tim LeCain's appointment.

Council welcomed the leadership under Tim LeCain. Council also welcomed Mary Miles (HHD) and Fabian Menalled (Ag).

November 24, 2015 minutes

- Member Babcock calls for correction—he was absent; Member Shreffler-Grant asked minutes to reflect that she was present. LeCain calls for motion to approve with revisions mentioned, Giullian moves, Al-Kaisy second, unanimous pass.

Announcements

- **Carnegie Classification, task force (hand out, Hoo)**
 - MSU's Carnegie ranking reduced to Tier 2 (R2) in most recent release (based on 2013/14 data).
 - President Cruzado created three task forces; Dean Hoo leads Improving Graduate Student Admissions and Degree Completion task force.
 - Focus on recruitment, admissions, enrollment—task force must make operational recommendation by March 20, 2016.
 - Data over 4 years show that recruitment and admissions appear on track, but enrollments are lower than expected—investigating why.
 - Dean Hoo hypothesized that “retention may be the underlying issue.”
 - Q: How does MSU compare to peer institutions?

- Task force was given list of Rocky Mountain Schools, including some schools with much larger student populations than MSU
 - CGS does not track retention, but, anecdotally, knows it is an issue for graduate programs
 - MSU is not recruiting international students as much as peers are
 - Comment: Engineering not supported by university dollars, which makes recruitment and increasing enrollment more difficult. Also must admit students that are not highest quality because cannot be competitive and therefore these students might have difficulty completing degree.
 - Comment: History cannot support more than two at a time, so growing enrollment is not easily accomplished
 - Comment: Without ability to be competitive in hiring new assistant professors, graduate students suffer, potentially affecting student completion rates
 - Comment: expensive to live in Bozeman, housing shortage, factors contribute to student completion rates
- **PhD Enhancement Funds**
 - Dean Hoo was not permitted to turn GTA awards into GRA lines; held back 2 GTA lines to use as “PhD Dissertation Completion Fellowship”

Old Business

- **Graduate Representative policy**
 - Comment from Faculty Senate—Senate asked members to speak with their UGC rep
 - Engineering: as long as Grad School can step in when a particularly difficult student situation arises, removing requirement for grad rep is acceptable
 - Member Babcock suggests sending proposal to Faculty Senate if UGC is ready
 - Policy & Procedures subcommittee must write proposal to eliminate graduate representative and then UGC vote on proposal. Sub-committee will send policy proposal to listserv by Feb 8th. Faculty Senate meets Feb 10th.

New Business

- **PhD Dissertation Completion Fellowship (handout, Hoo)**
 - Draft given to UGC
 - Stipend and waiver from Graduate School
 - Student must meet certain criteria: be ABD, no later than 5th year, cannot have received award in past
- **Individual Interdisciplinary PhD (IIP) (handout, Hoo)**
 - Dean Hoo responded to email queries from UGC (hand out)
 - IIP to go to BOR for March meeting
 - Proposal next goes to Faculty Senate, then to Provost
 - Will vote via email once one lingering question answered
 - Email vote to be spearheaded by Curriculum Subcommittee Chair Mary Miles

Committee Reports

- **Policy and Procedures Committee**

- Curriculum Committee
- Governance Committee

Adjourned at 3:00 pm

Next scheduled meeting – Feb 17, 2016