

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Monday, April 8, 2019

2-3pm

ABB 145

Council in Attendance:

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)
Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Brock Smith (Agriculture)
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Sobia Anjum (Student Representative)
Nicolas Yunes (Letters & Science)
Yujian Wang (International Programs)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Tena Versland (Education)
James Becker (Health & Human Development)
Susan Cohen (Letters & Science)
Leila Sterman (Library)

Also in Attendance:

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

Absent:

Robert Rydell (Letters & Science)
Ron Larsen (Interim Dean of The Graduate School)
Sara Mannheimer (Library)
Eric Austin (Faculty Senate)

Meeting started at 2:05 pm

March 25, 2019 minutes

- Motion to approve made by Aig, 2nd by Yunes, unanimously passed

Announcements

- **Faculty Senate update** (Austin): absent
- **Graduate School update**
 - Graduation update: one-credit extension students able to walk; full-term summer students with certain extenuating circumstances (i.e. international) able to walk
 - New Dean announced: Craig Ogilvie, starting August 1st

Old Business

- **Reporting of Comprehensive Exams requirement, proposal revisions (Larsen)**
 - Edits in progress – new version hopefully up for vote at next meeting

- Q: Separate dissertation document – deadline for student to submit thesis to committee?
 - A: two weeks prior to defense
- **IIP Proposals**
 - 3 completions, all positive; waiting for 1 last review

New Business

- **Strategic Planning**
 - All units on campus tasked with aligning strategic plan with MSU
 - Grad School is asking for input from UGC
 - Q: Goal 1.1. addresses undergraduate education?
 - Many graduate students teaching undergrads – relates to stipends
 - Q: More professional master's and doctoral offerings – what is meant by the doctoral programs? Not the conventional research based degree?
 - Send comments/questions to Dean Larsen
- **Graduate Certificate in Climate Science Teaching Program Proposal (Livingston)**
 - Review of proposal
 - Certificate built around existing courses (some changed from 591)
 - Note: all courses (listed on page 4) have gone through the Courseleaf system
 - Some course review comments date back to October 2016 – courses have been vetted and strengthened by these comments/questions
 - Open discussion:
 - Faculty Senate has been discussing some concerns of new programs that come from existing courses with no added resources
 - Try to make the most out of existing resources – don't see harm in that; certificate that improves professional resume, advancement
 - This certificate came from a demand/interest
 - Good point that administering all of these certificates could gradually lead to need for additional resources – hard to later advocate for resources
 - Suggestion: maybe projected increase in enrollment and additional faculty/administrative time predicted should be made part of the proposals
 - MSSE unique program – all online; trying to do stackable credentials, increasing in popularity
 - Q: Is a certificate a recognizable credential for these students?
 - Already teachers, broaden expertise – more marketable
 - Teaching certs: can count credits into a master's degree
 - K-12 salary systems based on credits – so certificate helps with raises
 - More demand, same resources; administratively more work adds up, and there is a potential reallocation of demand (i.e. more students enrolling in certain classes)
 - This program is shared between MSSE and ATO
 - Easier to get approved if don't ask for resources, until it builds up – long term consequence to consider
 - Livingston will add resource concern and write a letter to forward to faculty senate
- **Full Time Equivalency (Negaard)**
 - Graduate School policy for full-time graduate student is 9 credits

- A question that frequently comes up is: how many credits required for full-time?
 - Answer always depends on “for what”?
 - Different entities have different requirements (e.g. veteran status, loan repayments, family housing, fellowships, Fulbright, international, departments)
- Idea is to add full-time equivalency language to Graduate School policy
 - Example: international student in 6 credits plus a TA/RA appointment is equivalent to full-time
- Will try to draft policy over the summer—would like UGC’s input before summer
- Many students go over the minimum requirements
 - Example from Anjum (a Fulbright student): enrolled in 3 additional credits each semester to meet 9 credit minimum, but now Fulbright doesn’t want to continue paying because she’s already reached the 60 credit minimum in her 4th year
- Blue form – exception: health concerns, graduating, appointed as a TA or RA
- Policy as flexible as possible to meet the different funding sources, etc.
- Suggestion: add clause for Fulbright students doing research like an RA
- Q: What do other campuses do?
 - A: Plans to research policies on other campuses
- Goal is a policy that other entities can refer to – outlines Graduate School definition of full-time equivalency

Adjourned at 2:50 pm

Next scheduled meeting – Monday, April 22, 2019. 2:00 – 3:00 PM in ABB 145.