

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

January 20, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

WEBEX

Council in Attendance:

Mike Wittie (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Lisa Davis (Letters & Science)
Tricia Seifert (Education)
Dawn Tarabochia (Health & Human Development)
Bradford Watson (Faculty Senate)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters & Science)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Sara Mannheimer (Library)
Que Vo (International Programs)
Maureen Kessler (Student Representative)

Also in Attendance:

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

Absent:

Brock Smith (Agriculture)
Wade Hill (Nursing)

Meeting started at 9:04 am on WebEx

November 19, 2020 minutes

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

Announcements

- **Update from the Dean**
 - Spring enrollment: graduate numbers currently up 150 students compared to last spring (8% growth)
 - Retention: food and childcare scholarships, increase graduate student housing, support services, new initiative on career support
 - Recruiting: social media, changed “meritorious” to “University fellowship” – increased to 5 years, increased number of professional master’s fellowships, F&A reinvestment
 - Title IX policy: revised to meet new federal regulations, had first reading in University Council
 - Jurisdiction changes: must occur on campus for university to have jurisdiction
 - Public hearing: cross-examination of person filing the complaint must be possible

- **Faculty Senate update (Watson)**
 - 3 policies associated with faculty handbook under review:
 - Consulting policy: clarified time as 30 days over the academic year
 - Annual review & post-tenure review: clarified the language around performance improvement plans
 - Post-tenure review: more formative language, focus on the year of the improvement plan
 - Send any comments to your Faculty Senate representative
 - House Bill 102: letters of opposition sent from MUS leadership – addressing safety

Old Business

- **PhD in Indigenous & Rural Health, Level II program proposal:**
 - Updated proposal sent to UGC
 - Call for comments:
 - Purpose articulated more clearly
 - UM comparison section strengthened
 - Recommend that the proposal removes the requirement that applicants with a master's degree must have a reference from the master's committee
 - Short timeframe (3 years after a master's; 4 years after bachelor's) –increasing by one year be more realistic
 - BSN track still says 21 credits can transfer
 - Aig motions to approve proposal with 3 changes: 1) Remove the requirement that 1 recommendation letter must be from a master's committee member 2) Extend completion timeframes by 1 year 3) Remove language that BSN students can transfer 21 credits to PhD
 - Second by Wittie
 - Motion passes: 7 in favor; 0 opposed
 - Livingston will reach out to applicant with these items—will wait to approve until the changes are updated
- **Co-convening policy discussion**
 - Dean Ogilvie contacted departments with largest number of co-convened courses: received significant concern about restricting the number of co-convened courses
 - Resource constraints: not enough faculty to teach the courses separately
 - Suggest sending the 2007 policy to the policy subcommittee to review; work with OPA to get feedback on student experience and how these courses can be improved; ask Center for Faculty Excellence to run workshops for faculty teaching these courses; work with department heads to co-teach courses with other universities instead of co-convening, when possible
 - Q: Percentage of negative feedback compared to positive?
 - A: Only 1 department head wanted to reduce the number of their co-convened courses
 - First focus on improving the courses—may be the most effective way to reach the goal of improving quality for graduate students. Then could revisit a limit in the future if necessary.
 - Accreditors asked for co-convened policy: this request can be met with the 2007 policy – does not have to include limits

- From a student perspective, much more valuable when not co-convened
- What if co-convened courses were designed as graduate courses with decreased workload for undergraduates?
 - Undergraduates would have to earn 4xx level credit if lesser requirements
 - Like the idea of thinking about this differently: graduate level courses that undergraduates take, not the other way around
 - Teaching complicated by keeping track of students that are both levels and what their requirements are. As a teacher, would prefer a 5xx level class and they either meet the requirements or not
 - If an undergrad is taking a 5xx level course, they should be assessed at an equal level
 - Undergraduates can take graduate courses, depending on dept requirements; different than a co-convened 4xx level course
 - Discussion on reserve/register process for UGs to take graduate courses
- Suggest advocating for faculty resources with the growing graduate population
 - The reputation of the university and research profile depends on the graduate programs
- Certificate program may be different than a master's or doctoral program; certificate student may not be expecting as much of a graduate experience—suggestion that we could differentiate between certificate and degree program requirements
- However, some programs (e.g., Education) teach certificates in a stackable format with the goal of having students continue to master's
 - Difference of post-bacc certificates: additional professional licensure versus a graduate certificate: shorter credential but taught at the graduate level
 - Value in graduate certificates providing a gateway to full degree programs
- Sense of the council, encourage departments to have 5xx level courses that undergraduates can take and reserve or replace a 4xx level credit for UG degree instead of co-convened courses
 - Over a 2 year period, the department offering co-convened courses work toward making the courses 5xx level that senior undergraduates can enroll in
- Graduate certificates are not automatically eligible for federal financial aid; need to ask proposers to document how certificate programs will advance careers, to submit for fin aid eligibility
- Move item to policy & procedures subcommittee to review and update 2007 policy language
 - Dean Ogilvie will send suggestions to the subcommittee
- **Certificates in Crop Breeding & Biotechnology and Plant Disease**
 - Co-convening seemed to be the main concern with these certificates
 - Any other concerns?
 - Edit the need section to discuss the benefit to Montana and the region, job opportunities
 - Not clear if there are enough courses for undergraduates to meet their undergraduate requirement and continue to this certificate program
 - Department's responsibility to review this
 - Encourage policy subcommittee to include requirement that students can't retake the co-convened course for graduate credit

- Send feedback to proposers

Adjourned at 10:30 am

Next scheduled meeting – February 3, 2021 WEBEX