UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Thursday, October 13, 2016         2:00 – 3:00 p.m.  Sherrick 114

Council in Attendance:
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)        Mary Miles (Health & Human Development)
Charlene Winters (Nursing)           Tim LeCain (Letters)
Ian van Coller (Arts)               Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture) Marc Giullian (Business)
Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)       Ann Ewbank (Education)

Also in Attendance:                 Guest in Attendance:
Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)  Qing Yang (School of Computing)
Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)
Kristin Smith (Student Representative)
Megan Prettyman (International Programs)

Absent:
Joan Broderick (Sciences)
Franke Wilmer (Faculty Senate)
Tena Versland (Education)
Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Meeting started at 2:02 pm

Sept 29, 2016 minutes
• Livingston moves, LeCain second, unanimous pass

Announcements
• Introduction of alternate members (Charlene Winters & Ann Ewbank) and new member Ian van Coller (Arts)
• MS in Data Science
  o Dept of Mathematics & School of Computing submitted an intent to plan new degree
  o Caters to students from math, statistics, physics, and computer engineering
  o Intend to start program fall 2018
  o Resources are always concern for new programs
  o In future, will expand to PhD and certificate offerings
• Update from Faculty Senate (Wilmer absent)
  o Withdrawing graduation application policy
  o Dean Hoo reports policy does not need to go to Faculty Senate
  o Revisions were made with Office of Degree Programs & Certificates
• Committee on campus-wide recruitment/admissions structure (Hoo)
  o Met for first time, Doreen Brown (Chemistry & Biochemistry), Marc Giullian (Business),
    Anne Camper (Engineering), Krista Baziak (Graduate School)
  o Would like more members; Dean Hoo asks Council to suggest more members
Department capacity is unclear and impacts ability to admit students
Goal is to increase graduate student enrollment in total

Old Business
- IIP proposal update (Hoo) cont. discussion
  - Questions sent to Council over email for feedback
  - Responses distributed to Council at meeting
  - Dean Hoo asks Council to review responses

New Business
- MS course-only policy change in School of Computing, discussion
  - Qing Yang attended, representing School of Computing proposal
  - Request the removal of the comprehensive exam requirement for plan C or MS en route
    students if student has cumulative GPA of 3.50. Or, remove comp altogether if Council
    agrees
  - If below 3.50, student will write a review of a peer-reviewed journal article and submit
    the review to their committee for evaluation (in final term of attendance)
  - Nationally, courses only MS/MEng vary in requiring comprehensive exam
  - Q: do other programs at MSU offer master’s without comprehensive exam?
    - Yes, but different fields have different standards of evaluation
  - Two options in policy change document (second option removes comprehensive exam
    requirement altogether)
  - One council member voices preference for option 1 (article review) because it helps
    ensure quality for students with lower GPAs
  - Recommendation: written response (evaluation) to student
  - Removing comprehensive exam at 3.5 GPA seems arbitrary;
  - Recommendation: all students should take a comprehensive exam; it’s part of learning
    experience, not a hurdle to get over, and Council appreciates School of Computing
    attempting to tailor exam to what these students would truly benefit from
  - Q: are MS Computer Science majors in the professional world typically reading journal
    articles or writing articles? Is this requirement as a comprehensive exam practical for a
    professional track?
  - Q: Should all students complete the review paper (option 1)? Is this an improvement of
    the former comprehensive exam format?
  - Currently, School of Computing has 11 faculty, serving 600 total students (undergraduate
    and graduate) so streamlining comprehensive exam process is very desirable
  - Dean Hoo recommends School of Computing revise with Council feedback and send
    amended document to Chair Al-Kaisy.
    - Council will be given revision for discussion at at 10/27 meeting

Committee Reports
- Policy and Procedures Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Governance Committee

Adjourned at 3:00pm

Next scheduled meeting – Oct 27, 2016