

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Thursday, October 13, 2016

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Sherrick 114

Council in Attendance:

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)

Charlene Winters (Nursing)

Ian van Coller (Arts)

Christopher Livingston (Architecture)

Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)

Mary Miles (Health & Human Development)

Tim LeCain (Letters)

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Marc Giullian (Business)

Ann Ewbank (Education)

Also in Attendance:

Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)

Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

Kristin Smith (Student Representative)

Megan Prettyman (International Programs)

Guest in Attendance:

Qing Yang (School of Computing)

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**
 - Dept of Mathematics & School of Computing submitted an intent to plan new degree
 - Caters to students from math, statistics, physics, and computer engineering
 - Intend to start program fall 2018
 - Resources are always concern for new programs
 - In future, will expand to PhD and certificate offerings
- **Update from Faculty Senate (Wilmer absent)**
 - Withdrawing graduation application policy
 - Dean Hoo reports policy does not need to go to Faculty Senate
 - Revisions were made with Office of Degree Programs & Certificates
- **Committee on campus-wide recruitment/admissions structure (Hoo)**
 - Met for first time, Doreen Brown (Chemistry & Biochemistry), Marc Giullian (Business), Anne Camper (Engineering), Krista Baziak (Graduate School)
 - 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