

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

Tuesday Nov 28, 2017

2 – 3 p.m.

Wilson 2-257

Council in Attendance:

John Borkowski (Sciences)

Christopher Livingston (Architecture)

Dennis Aig (Arts)

Kathryn Bills (Student Representative)

Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)

Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)

James Becker (Health & Human Development)

Robert Rydell (Letters)

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Marc Giullian (Business)

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Tena Versland (Education)

Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)

Amanda Brown (Graduate School)

Absent:

Meeting started at 2:02 pm

**October 31, 2017 minutes**

- Livingston Moves, Menalled second, unanimous approval

**Announcements**

- **Update: Faculty Senate (Babcock)**
  - Doctoral Program Prioritization is on FS agenda tomorrow (11/29/17)
- **Student Rep Bills:** letter writing event today to write letters to Senator Daines regarding the proposed tax plan; also a walk-out planned for tomorrow when students will walk downtown to deliver the letters to Senator Daines' Office
- **Dean Hoo:** send Provost Award choices to Dean Hoo

**Old Business**

- **Review PhD Enhancement announcement for clarity (Al-Kaisy)**
  - Item #2 in the announcement mentions recruitment—this award is not to be used for recruitment; announcement will be revised
- **Committee Co-Chair policy proposal (Hoo), handout**
  - Dean Hoo asking to revise policy to reflect co-chairs as equals rather than having a chair and co-chair
  - Multiple co-chairs possible (min of two if no chair)
  - Q: Who makes the decision about composition?
    - In theory, faculty on committee and student make decisions together
  - Concern raised about removing possibility of chair and co-chair together
    - Concern about “credit” for chairing committees
    - More seasoned faculty members assist younger faculty members by co-chairing; the younger faculty member chairs the committee

- Q: Have you heard instances where the co-chair is doing the “heavy lifting” while chair does less?
  - Yes, when co-chair is the research faculty and student is supported from their grant
- Concern: if interpersonal issues come up with the committee, having co-chairs could hold up the student because there is no clear “leader”?
- Q: What is drawback of keeping both options: 2 co-chairs or chair plus co-chair?
- Could be faculty resistance to new policy if there is elimination of chair plus co-chair option
  - The discussion showed support for multiple options
- Student Rep Bills notes that some of her ESCI peers would benefit from having two co-chairs but echoes concern of being guided by more than one person if they are not in agreement
- As MSU moves toward more interdisciplinary programs, this issue needs to be addressed—finding mechanism that provides most flexibility is important
- Suggestion: keep existing option in policy (chair or chair & co-chair) and add option for multiple co-chairs w/o explicit chair
  - General agreement from Council
  - Giullian moves, Rydell second, unanimous pass
  - Effective spring 2018
- **MAT proposal (Livingston)**
  - Education’s written responses to UGC’s questions given to Council
  - Does Council have additional questions/concerns/comments?
    - Concerned about creating a program that is NTT-based/driven; not in the best interest of students or MSU in general (potential loss of tenure lines)
    - Concerned about resources
      - Suggestion—resource conversation is better left to upper administration
    - Classroom/face to face time while student-teaching in the presence of other pre-service teachers is a concern
    - Master of Arts in English Education proposal entered into CiM today; potential duplication of programs? Might want to review new proposal before moving MAT Education proposal forward
      - Structure seems similar, both online
    - Dean Hoo asks to take both proposals to the deans of L&S and EHHD, if they think they are unique and different enough to proceed, then UGC will proceed
    - Q: What is the total reach/overlap of this program/content areas and which Deans need to be involved?
    - Aig moves that Dean Hoo takes two proposals to deans of L&S and EHHD, Rydell second, unanimous approval
    - Comment: Education’s plans to educate people who are already tied to these rural/underserved communities is a real merit to the program
- **Graduate Faculty Status (Borkowski)**
  - Graduate School Dean and staff left the room so Council could perform private vote on whether or not to continue pursuing the issue.

Adjourned at 3:03pm

Next scheduled meeting – spring 2018 TBD